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NARRAGANSETT HISTORICAL SOCIETY BUILDING

# The Story of Templeton,

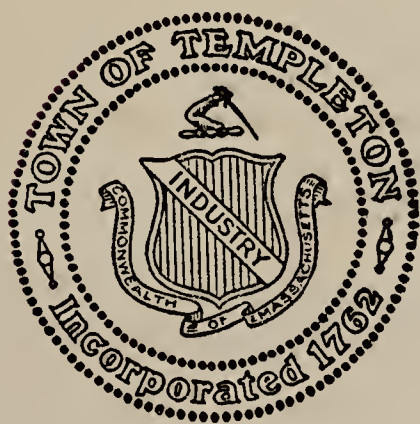
Massachusetts

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Ethel M. Eaton



S P O N S O R E D   B Y

NARRAGANSETT HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.



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By Elizabeth Wellington Lord

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## Old Templeton

*Mightily heave thy hills; the breasts of the sacred Earth mother:  
Silent and dark thy vales; where the thrush will resound in the twilight.  
Dear are the upland farms; the hallowed abodes of the fathers:  
Homely the pasture brown, with only the hardhack for heather.  
Sweet was the woodland tarn; fair crown of thy daughter departed:  
Merry thy sparkling brook; and placid the course of the trout stream.  
Peerless were erst thy pines; but now they are sailing the ocean:  
Swiftly their sisters rise; for the pine on her hills is eternal.  
Wild is the western light that streams from the crest of the church hill:  
Weird is the waning moon, as she sleeps on the mist of the valley:  
Dark and defiant the storms that sweep from Vermont o'er the midland.  
Noble and strong on Thee looks Monadnock, the prince of the  
    mountains:  
Many thy suitors bold, from him to the shapely Watatic.  
Lovely and grand art thou, fair Templeton, queen of the highland.*

— CHARLES WELLINGTON STONE

Templeton, Mass.  
1886



# *The Story of Templeton*

By

ELIZABETH WELLINGTON LORD

## Acknowledgments

For material of historical interest, I am indebted to Hosea F. Lane who wrote the "History of Templeton to 1888" and to Rev. Edwin G. Adams, author of "An Historical Discourse," which contains information concerning the town and the First Church; to J. Francis Winch, author of "Memories of Templeton," for stories, anecdotes and reminiscences, to friends, neighbors and many townspeople whose help and co-operation have made possible the compilation of this story of Templeton.

E. W. L.



## Foreword

This story does not pretend to be a detailed account of the history of Templeton but simply a narrative of events woven in with stories and folklore. It is written for the pleasure of all people, young and old, who are interested in the development of this section of New England. A more extensive history will be found in special chapters written by members of the Narragansett Historical Society.



## CHAPTER I.

### First Settlements — To 1786

HIGH on a ridge of land, running from Mount Wachusett to Mount Monadnock, twelve hundred feet above the sea, Templeton was born.

Like many New England towns, settlements were made on an elevation for the purpose of being able to see the approach of the Indians.

There is little indication that the Indians lived in this locality; though there are signs that they wandered through. Arrowheads, stone mortars, pestles and pot-holes, were found by the early settlers. We are told that the villages south of Templeton were evacuated and that tribes of Indians moved north establishing camps in the town. It is quite possible that Mary Rowlandson (the wife of the Lancaster minister) who was captured by the Indians in one of her twenty removals, might have made a temporary camp in this vicinity.

It has been stated that once there was a settlement of Narragansett Indians around Princess Rock, located just back of the Petersham Road, on the left side, not far from the old Poor Farm... This is the story: In this village lived Princess "Star Fire", daughter of the chief. She was known throughout the land as the fairest of maidens.

Chief "Big Wolf", the most powerful chieftain of the Narragansett Indians, demanded her for his wife, but the

Princess loved one of her own tribe, brave "Young Eagle". Her father, "Long Arrow", dared not deny the request of the chieftain fearing for the safety of his people. When the Princess saw "Big Wolf" she decided that she preferred death to marriage with this chieftain. The night before the day appointed for her marriage, she and her lover met upon the Princess Rock. When her father came in search of her, he found her dead, locked in the arms of her lover at the foot of the rock.

For many years afterward, no Indian or paleface dared linger near the spot, but in the evening as twilight descended, it was said that the death song of the maiden and her lover could be faintly heard near Princess Rock.

This perhaps is the most romantic story in the town's early history.

In our life today we are indebted to the Indian for certain foods. The canoe and snowshoe are survivals of the Red Man, and we are following his way of living by adopting the free out-of-door life.

In 1620, The Pilgrims landed on our shores at Plymouth.

"The breaking waves dashed high  
On a stern and rock bound coast,  
And the woods against the stormy sky  
Their giant branches tossed;  
And the heavy night hung dark,  
The hills and waters o'er  
When a band of exiles moored their bark  
On the wild New England shore."

—*Felicia Hemans*

They were Christian people who came to find freedom to worship God, and in due time the descendants of these brave men and women came to live in our town.

The General Court of the Province of Massachusetts was glad to give away the land in the hill country for the sake of opening up new townships. To those who had done service



in the King Philip's War against the Narragansett Indians and had made claim for compensation, land was given and a proprietary system was established, each township being required to have at least one hundred and twenty Proprietors. These Proprietors came from towns below, which previously had been settled.

It was at a meeting in Concord, Massachusetts, December 3, 1733 that the township laid out was accepted and given the name of Narragansett, No. 6. The neighboring town of Westminster was known as Narragansett No. 2; Buxton, Maine No. 1; Amherst, New Hampshire No. 3; Enfield, Massachusetts No. 4; Bedford, Massachusetts No. 5; and Gorham, Maine No. 7.

A committee was chosen "to finish the line and burn the wood" but because of the French and Indian hostilities, there was no actual settlement for several years.

On October 6, 1742, a meeting was held on Ridge Hill in Partridgeville where grants of land were given out. The site where the Bay State Metal Wheel Company was located was one of the first. A saw-mill was erected, twice being burned by the Indians and rebuilt.

The first log-house is supposed to have been built in East Templeton and that, too, was burned by the Indians.

You will find in the Narragansett Historical Society Building a sheepskin parchment marking the location of these grants of land given to the first settlers.

Let us visualize this location in these early times. It could well have been said:

"This is the forest primeval: The  
Murmuring pines and the hemlocks,  
Bearded with moss, and in garments green,  
Indistinct in the twilight,  
Stand like Druids of eld."

—Longfellow

Just one stretch of wild growth of tall and stately trees, and the wild animals roamed at will, the fox, the bear and the wolf. "Keeping the wolf from the door" was literally one of the problems of those days.

These were sturdy young men who came to stake out their claims. They wore the short jacket coat, knee breeches and broad-brimmed high pointed hats.

Before the log-houses could be built, they lived in dugouts on the side of a hill or in natural caves formed in the rocks. A large cave, we know, was lived in by one of the early settlers, located on the Petersham Road, on White Hill. The log-houses were carefully, though crudely made. There were then no planks, no nails, no glass for windows. Tall trees were cut and logs were hauled on hand-made sleds and placed on solid ground. The joints were bound with wet rawhide and the space between the logs was chinked in with moss and clay. Oiled paper was used for the windows and the roof covered with bark from the chestnut trees. Many had no chimneys; others had crude ones, laid with cobblestone, or sticks mortared with clay and grass. The doors were made of leather or strips of bark with leather hinges.

They had no stores so everything needed had to be fashioned by hand. They made wooden spoons and plates. They trapped for fur. The deer, the rabbit and the porcupine gave them meat, and they found trout and pickerel in the near-by ponds and streams. It took courage to open up settlements in that wilderness. In due time saw-and grist-mills were provided, more substantial houses were built, and an active community life was established. Thomas Sawyer built the first grist-mill at Goulding Village. It was voted that the sixty families who would settle on their lots should secure a certain sum and, the new settlers were required to pay into the Proprietors' treasury. The earliest payment made to any person



for building a house on his lot and living in it with his family was made in September, 1751, to Elias Wilder. It was on the site of the house which is now occupied by Charles Henshaw.

These early inhabitants were liberal and righteous men. The Sabbath was respected, and before a meeting-house could be built, they assembled for worship in private houses. In the autumn of 1752, the town Proprietors levied a tax of four shillings on each right of land to provide preaching.

Dr. Joseph Lord, a physician and preacher from the neighboring town of Pequog, now Athol, was engaged to conduct the services. He came each Sunday with a gun over his shoulder, as a protection from the Indians, to preach to these first settlers.

The first meeting-house was built in 1775. It was made of chestnut trees which grew where the common is now located. Rev. Daniel Pond was ordained as the first minister. He remained four years.

In 1760, the first frame house was built by Zaccheus Barrett, one of the twelve founders of the church. This house was erected on the South Road and known in later years as the Dolbear House. In 1761, Ebenezer Sparhawk was ordained in Mr. Zaccheus Barrett's house as the second minister of the First Church. He remained forty-four years.

Then in 1762, Narragansett No. 6 was incorporated under the name of Templetown, later Templeton. There were then about four hundred inhabitants. Why this name was given to the town, history does not reveal; but tradition says it was named for Sir John Temple, who at one time was Lieutenant Governor of New Hampshire. His picture hangs in our Public Library.

The second frame house to be built was "Ye Old Tavern". This was in the year 1763, and it was owned by Joshua Wright. He was chosen selectman eight different times and served as

town clerk and treasurer for many years. In this Tavern, were held the town meetings. The house was very carefully restored in 1935 by the late Charles Flood of Brookline. It is now owned by Charles Dewey.

The third frame house was built in 1764 by Ebenezer Sparhawk, the second settled minister. He occupied it as long as he lived, and afterward it was bought by his successor, Dr. Wellington, who lived there during his pastorate. It is located on the Wellington Road and is now owned by Herbert Maynard.

One of the largest kitchens was in the house built by Jonathan Cutting, now owned by Dr. Edwin St. John Ward. It had a huge fireplace, tall andirons and crane, spinning wheel and flax wheel. Like all the houses in the early days, the kitchen was the center for all work and social gatherings.

The women occupied their time in spinning, weaving, dipping candles, making soap and in other useful occupations. These women dressed in short-waisted bodices, long skirts, long sleeves, white kerchiefs and plain caps. It has been said they learned graceful movements by spinning and weaving. When we stop to think of the inventions which have been made to give us aid in our home work, the many electrical appliances, oil burners, the telephone and other devices, it is well for us to consider how our ancestors worked without these improvements.

Several years ago, two broadcasts were given by the writer, one entitled, "Women's Work in Colonial Days" and one, "Men's Work in Colonial Days." The one concerning the work of the men was written by Kenneth Bourn, and to make our story complete, we will quote from these two programs. "In the Colonial days, work meant occupation to produce the necessities of life, clothing, food and all home comforts. Flax and linen thread for weaving had to be prepared by the women as well as the yarn for knitting. "Home-made"



was an adjective that might be applied to nearly every article in the house.

The kitchen was the place where most of the work was done, though some of the occupations were accomplished out-of-doors. There was no running water in those days, not even a pump at the kitchen sink. All water was drawn in buckets, and this was not always done by the men of the family.

Cooking over the fireplace was an art in itself. Apples were preserved in several ways. There were no glass jars for canning, so apples were cut in slices and strung on linen thread and hung in the attic to dry. Apples, sweet and sour, were cooked in brass kettles with molasses used for sweetening, and placed in barrels and allowed to freeze.

Candle-dipping was an occupation on a large scale, enough being made in the fall to last a year. The art of making soft soap still continues today though not made in barrels as in those early times.

Perhaps the leading occupation was spinning, and those so occupied were called spinsters. Consequently there were then many married spinsters doing their needful work. The wheelwright then was not making wagon wheels but spinning wheels. "All wool and a yard wide" meant hard work from the shearing of the sheep to the finished product.

Linen thread was made into table cloths, sheets, pillow cases, aprons, bed-hangings, as testers for the four-posters. Knitting, then as now, was a useful art. Girls when four years old began to knit, and even boys knitted their own suspenders.

These were the outstanding occupations of the women during the Colonial period. There were in those days no clubs and few outside pleasures. The church and the home were the centers of interest.

We must not forget the patience, perseverance, hope and trust of these patriotic women.

The men occupied their time in making roads and cultivating the soil. They were paid only fifty cents a day and charged only 25 cents for the use of their oxen.

Kenneth Bourn relates that in the early days "The tough roots of the trees and the tangled sod of the meadow were plowed by sheer man-power, pulling in gangs with a wooden plow." But in Templeton's beginning the patient, strong ox was available, which became the standard draft animal throughout this section, partly because of his great strength and ability to thrive on poor forage and little care, but even more important, the ox would feed his master when his usefulness was gone. This was an important matter when a man must raise his own food or perish. The country was heavily wooded, hence the crops were planted the first year in patches between leafless trunks of girded trees. The crops raised were chiefly native products: corn, pumpkins, potatoes and beans for baking. Gradually the fields were adapted to the grains of England, wheat, rye and barley.

Flax for linen was seen on every farm, together with the sheep that supplied the clothing for the family. Every farm had its swine, milch cattle, oxen, and many had chickens and domesticated ducks and turkeys raised from the native wild species.

With the road-building and the advent of the saw-mills, the perfect Colonial houses were built. They were necessarily large, as families of a dozen children were common. The first of these houses were built by artisans imported from England.

As the land came under cultivation and villages sprang up, many men were released from farming to work as mechanics. England tried to prevent manufacturing in the Colonies, but



England was as helpless as the Indians had been in striving to preserve their lands. Small shops and mills sprang up, as the Colonists made more and more of their own shoes and clothing, nails, tools and weapons, becoming increasingly independent of the products of the mother country. As time passed, the town took on a more settled aspect.

The farms grew fat. The fields lost their stumps, and land was fenced in by stone walls. Increasing travel kept the trails clear and with the road-building it was possible to carry the produce of the fields to market. The barns and cellars were full, and the woodsheds were filled with beech, maple and oak, the finest fuel in the world for the fireplaces. Those brave ancestors of ours were paving the way toward our country's freedom. They could truly say, "Life is real, life is earnest", and little time was given to recreation or pleasure.

Note the substantial names of these first settlers, Zaccheus Barrett, Elias Wilder, Ebenezer Sparhawk, Phineas Byam, Jonathan Cutting, Joshua Hyde, Charles Baker. Captain Baker was one of the most prominent figures in the early history. Nothing of importance occurred in which he did not figure. He was a licensed Inn holder and surveyor of many plots of land and roads. In 1759, he laid out the first burying place. He was quite the Squire of the town.

In 1764, the town was divided into squadrons for schooling, one on the westerly side and one on the easterly side. This was the beginning of the public schools.

In 1770, the first doctor was settled in the town, Dr. Benjamin Shattuck. He was born in Littleton, November 11, 1742.

In 1775, came the Revolutionary War. "The town acted with great spirit and self sacrifice in behalf of the American cause during the war". A tablet was placed in the old town hall commemorating the service of thirty-six soldiers, minute-

men who promptly responded to the alarm sounded throughout the province on the morning of April 19, 1775.

The town meeting warrant, after the battle of Lexington, was issued not in "His Majesty's name", as previously, but simply "by order of the selectmen". In 1777, the warrant read "in the name of the government and people of the state of Massachusetts Bay".

During the twenty-five years after the incorporation of the town, as already stated, some progress was made in the development of roads. Previous to that time, horseback riding and in ox carts through paths were the only means of transportation. And over these bridle paths, on horseback, Moses Leland of Sherborn, brought his bride, Patience Babcock, to what was later known as the Leland Farm, located in the western part of the town.

In those early days, many people went about on rackets. They were like snowshoes, but not so long, and were sometimes used on horses in the meadows when getting in the hay.

Two bridges were constructed over the Otter River which flows through the northern section of the town. Later on, this river furnished the water power for many industries. Through the construction of roads and bridges the way was opened up for the making of various settlements.

The town spread out its interests, and many and various names were given to these locations, generally named for some person who lived in a special section, as Baldwinville, Jonesville, Dadmanville, Partridgeville, Brooksvillage, Pitcherville, Wilkieville, Goulding Village. Then there was Happy Hollow. One section, though having no settlement, was known as "Skunks Misery". There must have been some legend or story about it, but we know it not. It is the location for rare wild plants, making an interesting place for those who like to explore on foot. It extends over quite a large area in



the form of a bowl surrounded by a high ridge. In the center of this bowl is a bottomless pool. The land around it is moist and soggy, almost like quick-sand and when the men go fishing in the pool, they have to walk out on planks or else go beyond their depth in mire.

This may be the reason for its unusual name, for skunks like to burrow in moist land and they might have gone beyond their depth and found themselves in a miserable and unhappy condition.

Harvard men exploring this section gave as their theory that in the early days a meteor must have dropped there and caused the depression and upheaval of land.

In the autumn it is especially beautiful there, the colorful foliage mingled with the fir trees, and around the pool, the tall white grasses waving in the breeze and beyond, the corduroy road, no longer used.

One of the first roads built through the town ran from Worcester, through Hubbardston and Skunks Misery over this corduroy road through Brooksvillage to Greenfield. John Brooks's grandfather brought his bride in the first chaise used in New England over this road to his home in Brooksvillage.

In 1785, twenty-three years after our town was incorporated, Gardner was set off as a township. It was made up of portions of land taken from Winchendon, Westminster, Ashburnham and Templeton.

In 1786, the common was laid out, setting apart the land by the meeting-house for public use and pleasure. At that time, the town meetings were held in that house of worship. In the same year that the common was laid out, the management of public affairs was passed over by the Proprietors to the town.

And so around the common and along the main street appeared, one by one, the houses, shops and places of industry.

For the present, the wars were over, new hope, courage and incentive came into the lives of these brave settlers. In the next chapter we will tell something of the industries and activities following this early period.

### IMPORTANT DATES

1733	Township laid out Narragansett No. 6
1752	Preaching in houses Dr. Joseph Lord
1755	First Meeting House built Rev. Daniel Pond
1760	First frame house built Zaccheus Barrett
1761	Second Minister Rev. Ebenezer Sparhawk
1762	Town incorporated, named Templeton
1763	"Ye Old Tavern" built
1764	Schools started
1770	First doctor settled. Dr. Shattuck.
1775	Revolutionary War
1785	Gardner incorporated
1786	Common laid out
1786	Proprietors turn over management of affairs to the town.

## CHAPTER II.

### Interests and Industries of the Early Days 1786-1832

IN the year 1786, not only was the Common laid out and the public affairs turned over by the Proprietors to the town, but the section in the west end was made into a township and incorporated under the name of Gerry, (the town now known as Phillipston) for Elbridge Gerry, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and former Governor of Massachusetts. Because of political differences between Elbridge Gerry and the inhabitants of the town and also, we are told, because he did not keep his promise to furnish the glass windows for the church, it was the desire of the townspeople to change the name. On February 5, 1814, it was renamed Phillipston, in honor of Lieutenant Governor William Phillips.

During this period, in 1805, Ebenezer Sparhawk, the second minister, died. In 1807, Charles Wellington was ordained. He was the minister who received the great load of wood as a present from one of his parishioners. This is the story, as written by Dr. Wellington's grandson, Charles Wellington Stone, "It was the custom to supplement the minister's moderate salary with presents from the products of the farms, and



especially with wood. Now, Colonel Leonard Stone one day in January, 1822, was drawing to the parsonage some of his nice hard wood. It was a good ox load; two cords or so. As he was going across the common with it, his brother, Colonel Ephraim, caught sight of him from the store, and was surprised at such a great load. 'Hello!' says he, 'why don't you take your minister a load of wood while you're about it?' 'Now, look here,' said Colonel Leonard, 'I've been sawing out lumber down't the mill, and there's any quantity of slabs. I'll give the minister as big a load as you can take.'

Colonel Ephraim was a man for fun. He instigated the townspeople to take hold with him and accept his brother's challenge. First, they made the sled. Long trees were cut for the runners. These were made thirty-odd feet long, and set eight feet apart. The body of the sled projected two feet over the runner on each side. Thus the sled would hold twelve regular cords at one layer. There were two tongues, one in front of each runner. On the appointed day, the men and the oxen from all over town came to the meeting place. The sled was taken to the saw mill and backed up against the great pile. On went the slabs with a will. Colonel Leonard Stone stood by laughing, cheering, urging them along. When they had got on as much as they thought would do, they hitched up the team. One hundred and sixty oxen, four abreast, found it easy enough to pull. They had to go round through Baldwinville, because there was not room at the Otter River bridge for the sled to turn in. When they had got up on to the level ground above Baldwinville, they stopped and unhitched. Then with their every-day sleds they went back to the mill to bring more slabs and pile them on the big load. This they kept up till there were no more slabs. Forty cords lay piled up on that sled. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

The next morning came the rest of the journey 'up in town'. The school children were let out to see the great sight go by. One of them, to whose home it was going, said it looked as big as a house. It lay loaded for quite a while out by the parsonage; and people came from near and from far to see it. It kept Mr. Wellington in slabs for years to come. When the great sled was taken to pieces some of the timbers were used in building Mr. Winch's barn, and may be seen there in the framework until this day."

In 1811, the present First Parish Church building was erected. The history of the churches will be found in a special chapter under that title.

Though the Revolutionary War was over and the Colonial period at an end, the construction of Colonial houses still went on.

Mrs. Myra Paine, a resident of Baldwinville, when she was over 100 years of age, dictated some of her memories from which I quote: "After the log-cabin days great-grandfather built a fine frame house of the early construction, with great beams and timbers that have been found only in the primeval forest. A chimney as large as a good-sized room, fireplaces in all the rooms and the kitchen the central meeting place. The brick oven was always used for the Saturday baking. Corn, rye and wheat were used on the farm, and a few bushels of wheat were ground as needed for home use. The meal and rye were sifted for the brown bread, and the beans, pies and pudding prepared for the baking. First a wood fire was built in the oven, after which the ashes were drawn out with the long-handled flat shovel and the oven carefully swept and then it was filled with good things to bake, enough, it was hoped, to last a week. (An old fashioned fireplace and tin baker will be found in the Narragansett Historial Building.) There was very little sugar, tea was not sweetened, and coffee was sweet-



ened with molasses which was bought by the barrel. Linen and woolen cloth was made in the home and the children were delighted when the tailoress came in the fall bringing with her the tailor's great goose (an iron used in pressing heavy cloth). She cut and made all coats and suits for the family and remained as a guest in the house until all was finished."

Articles produced in the home took on a little more color and gaiety. Bags and purses were knitted with beads made in beautiful designs. Watch chains were woven seven yards long. Fruit and flowers were made in wax and put in frames as were also hair wreaths. Samplers, with their designs of birds, family crests and coats of arms were interesting productions. Little girls made samplers, working in mottos as a help to their right conduct. Here is a verse found on one of these samplers:

"\_\_\_\_\_ is my name

Lord quiet my heart that  
I may do thy will  
And fill my heart with  
Such convenient skill,  
As will induce to virtue  
Void of shame  
And I will give the glory  
To thy name.  
When I was Young and in  
my prime  
You will see how well  
I spent my time,  
And by my sampler  
You may see  
What care my parents  
Took of me."

The following words were found on a sampler worked by Abigail Hatch, mother of Mrs. Elizabeth Parkhurst:

“We are three little sisters all equally fair,  
With handsome bright eyes and thick beautiful hair;  
We live near the river, with father and mother,  
But we have not as yet any dear little brother.”

The women knitted constantly; some of them knitted even while walking. Mrs. Ezra Baker, who lived in what is now West Gardner Square, in the days when a part of the land was an apple orchard, used occasionally to spend the day with her son, Joel, and his family, who lived in Templeton on the South Road, near Cook Road. Starting very early in the morning, she would walk from West Gardner to South Templeton, more than five miles, knitting as she went. As she also knitted industriously all during her day's visit, she had accomplished much by supper time.

Mrs. Timothy Kneeland, who lived in that part of Templeton which is now Gardner, was a very enterprising woman. One night after her family had retired, she had ten yards to weave to complete the web. The cloth was an order for a customer, and being in want of money, she labored throughout the night and finished the work at dawn.

In those days, all food was cooked in the home, and it wasn't unusual, in haying time, for the woman of the house to use a barrel of flour in a week. All cooking was done in a wood-burning stove. In the winter time it was hard to keep the bread dough warm enough so it would rise. This was sometimes accomplished by placing the bread sponge on a chair in the kitchen, placing a lighted lantern underneath and wrapping the whole thing in a clean, new horse blanket. In some households, the sponge was placed on a heated freestone, wrapped in a red table cloth.

The early settlers had a prejudice against destructive animals, and in early times a bounty was offered for killing them — 34 cents for each old crow, 17 cents for each young one (1797). Later, (1801) a bounty of 25 cents for old hen hawks, and 12½ cents for young ones were offered. In 1783, Templeton offered 40 shillings for each full grown wolf's head. There was no bounty for bears, though they did exist here in the early days. On the Hubbardston Road, there is an authenticated wolves' den.

The men worked also in the evening, carving on wood and making brooms for barn use as well as for the house. They even made huskmats and other useful articles. One man who lived in the town of Winchendon on the boundary line of Templeton, and whose affiliations and interests were in our town, was a wood chopper, trapper and hunter. In his leisure moments he wrote poems and had them published in a little volume. Here is a stanza from one of his productions, called "Here and Now."

"Others may sing of the sweet by and by  
In the beautiful isle of the blest  
Where all tears are wiped from the weeping eye  
And the weary soul may rest;  
But I will sing of another land  
Not far, far away, but near,  
The very spot where my feet now stand  
In the beautiful now and here."

Because these women were frugal and saving and loved color, the making of patchwork quilts become a pleasurable occupation. They gave their patterns interesting names, such as "Job's Troubles", "Crow Foot", "Rose of Sharon", etc., and so the pieces of calico and glazed chintz found their way into these coverings.



The "quilting bees" were social events. The energetic women gathered at the house where the quilt was to be made and worked diligently all the afternoon around the quilting frame, where fine stitches and lively gossip mingled. Then in the evening men—the husbands and the lovers, joined the party, for supper, around the long table. This consisted of cold meats, baked beans, brown bread, hot rolls, preserves of some kind, cake, cookies and pies and of course tea and cider. For these suppers, Mrs. Wellington, the minister's wife, made the cookies, for this was her specialty.

She was a little woman but an excellent cook. She did her baking in the old brick oven and, as you know, it contained no thermometer to indicate the temperature. In order to know if the degree of heat were right for the baking, she would put her hand and part of her arm into the oven and keep it there while she counted sixty. If, after that time, the hand was beginning to burn, she knew that the temperature was right for the baking. All the time she was counting, she hopped up and down; as the hand grew hotter the faster she jumped, but she never removed her hand until the 60 counts were made. To return to the quilting party; after this bountiful repast, came an evening of singing and games. At ten o'clock the party ended, and then came the pleasure of "Seeing Nellie Home".

For pleasure also were the "Husking Bees" and always the dance hall was a popular place. The grandmothers and great grandmothers gave us lovely pictures of themselves, with their elaborate gowns of brocaded satins and silks, hair dressed high at the side, the fascinating long curls; at the back, the high comb and flower tucked in to give them charm as they danced the minuet.

The children played games with marbles and jackstraws and out-of-doors they rolled the hoop.



As Mrs. Paine states, "it was a busy life and a happy one. Perhaps it did not always bring wealth, but it did bring competence, comfort and good health and an appreciation of the simple things of life."

While the men of this period were building roads and exploring through the township, they often made discoveries, and one was the finding of a cave, in the southern part of Partridgeville, near the Hubbardston line on Mine Hill. (See section on East Templeton)

The hill yields sulphurate of iron in large quantities. It is imbedded in loose graphite and with care beautiful specimens may be produced." Who knows, perhaps some day valuable ores may be found.

As we glance around the common now and along the various roads leading from it and see almost entirely residential houses, it is difficult to realize that this was once a center for many shops and places of industry.

The store building now owned by Leonard Brooks was once a long, low structure. John Bigelow kept clocks in the north end, a shoe shop was in the south end and in between a variety store.

In 1829, Colonel Artemus Lee built the present building. The original one was taken down and used in the construction of the house on the Wellington Road, occupied for many years by C. W. Upham. Where the new school building now stands was once a large stable for horses and carriages. Across the street, on the site of the Templeton Inn, was the old hotel, with its spring floor and dance hall and broad veranda in front. In the first years of this inn the town did not receive mail oftener than two or three times a week. The early records of the town show that Thomas Wilder was appointed postmaster on July 1, 1802.

The house owned and occupied by John Brooks was once

a tavern run by Francis Twichell, father of Miss Hattie Twichell whom many now remember. This tavern also had a dance hall.

The Narragansett Historical Building was once a store kept by John Stiles and later by Ephraim Stone.

In the next house, occupied by Mr. and Mrs. William Hawkes, was found Franklin Lamb's boot shop and also in the same building was Lovell Walker's law office. It might be interesting to note the wording of one of his wills. Here is a part of one: "The twenty-eighth day of September, 1805. In the name of God, Amen. I, John Cobleigh of Templeton in the county of Worcester and Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Yeoman, being disordered and weak in body, but perfect mind and memory, and apprehending the time of my continuance in this Life to be very short do make and ordain my last will and Testament".

Then after "resigning his soul into the hand of God", he makes his bequests: "Impris, I give unto my much beloved wife, Mary Cobleigh, one cow to be kept or another in the Room of that, by my son—David Cobleigh during the life of my wife, and I give to her all my household furniture, furthermore I devise and appoint that my beloved wife together with my daughter, Mary, have during life the use of the East front Room in my house and all those accommodations in the kitchen and cellar, at the well and around the house which she shall need. I also appoint that she be supplied with all articles in sufficient quantity necessary for her support and comfort in Health and in Sickness". In like manner he wills his farm property to his son and to his daughter, Mary, also a cow.

A furniture shop was located where our present library building now stands, managed by Benjamin Hawkes, and another tavern in Mr. Charles Dewey's house.

In the vacant house beyond lived Dr. Sabin, the second minister of the Trinitarian Congregational Church.

On the corner of the Otter River road was Mr. Chamberlain's harness shop. At Rollin Johnson's house, Mrs. Richardson kept her famous school for girls. On the site of the Lane house was the carriage shop.

Then farther on, the old red blacksmith shop under the horse chestnut tree, built by Asa Fessenden. Sometimes forty horses were to be seen awaiting their turn to be shod. Peter Thomas was the smith. Next to the blacksmith shop was the Jones Carriage Shop, which later was moved to the Otter River road and is now occupied by Russell Leland.

At the corner of the Athol road, the large brick house owned by Elsa Stone was a private school in which Jacob Batchelder taught. It also had a dance hall, and a store in the basement.

In traveling along the Baldwinville road on the way to Baptist Common, which was at this period a center for several industries, there will be found on the left-hand side, about a mile from the common, a cellar hole which was once the site of a log house occupied, tradition states, by a **witch**. This witch did not meet the fate of the Salem witches, but was allowed to live. Here is the story: "When this witch took her daily walk, she was not troubled by being accosted, for the very sight of her bowed figure in the distance, leaning upon her staff, was sufficient to drive every man, woman and child within doors. Over each door of the neighborhood houses was suspended a horseshoe which was supposed to be a protection from witches", as the following incident discloses:

"In those days there were no matches, and fires in the huge fireplaces were carefully covered each night that there might be coals to kindle a fire the next morning. If it went out during the night, a trip had to be made to a neighbor's house



and coals brought back to rekindle it. Sometimes a candle in a portable lantern was used. One morning during a pouring rain, the fire in the witch's house went out. She went to the nearest neighbor's house to borrow some coals. It was raining so hard the neighbor reluctantly asked her to come in, while he got the coals. She tried several times but could not enter despite all they could say or do. It was the horseshoe over the door that prevented her entrance. After that exhibition, the price of horseshoes increased through the region.

The fate of the witch is not known, but tradition states that she disappeared. The neighbors declared they saw her one night flying high in the air with almost incredible velocity, astride the broom stick. Even her cat, after perching like a coal-black shadow on the ridgepole of the old house, disappeared, and silence brooded over the place ever after."

Baptist Common in those early days was a center of industries and settlement of families. The Baptist Church was located there for over 40 years. Louis Brown's house was once a tavern, and there were a store and cabinet shops.

On the Athol road, there were a tannery, funeral parlors, carriage and harness shops; and by the pond a sawmill and furniture shop. In the house occupied for many years by the Hadleys lived the Goodrich sisters, Eliza and Sarah, Templeton's famous miniature painters. A number of Sarah Goodrich's portraits are now to be found in the Historical Building; while several miniatures by Eliza and one by Sarah are on exhibition at the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester.

On the Gardner road, in the little white house once owned by Mrs. Hemenway, was Wait's Hat Shop, which formerly stood on the opposite side of the road. This was one of Templeton's important industries. In 1786, when the high-crown poke bonnets were the fashion, these straw hats were



very popular. The process of making straw hats was quite intricate, from the unthreshed wheat stacks to the finished product.

The dealer collected the straw from the farmer's barn floor, gathered the straw together and combed it with a small iron-toothed rake to get rid of the haulon and then made the straw into bundles of 50-112 pounds. The straw in those bundles was stripped and cut off just above the knot, leaving the straws about 10 inches in length. The next process was the bleaching. The straws were wet and put in a box in which a cup of molten sulphur was placed and the box then closed. Sometimes the straws were dyed black or blue. After the bleaching or coloring, the straws were graded, shaken loosely over a series of wire sieves varying in degrees of fineness. The straw was then examined and the specks removed, after which the strands were tied up in bundles, ready to be taken to the houses to pleat. Mrs. Almira Parkhurst was the first to learn this process. Children were taught to do this plaiting often before they were four years old. Boys and men also did this work. Hand sewing of the plaited straw was another home process. Some of the hats were made from the wood of the willow trees, while the wood was green. Hats were stiffened by a bath in a solution of gelatine and blocked on models. (Machinery used may be seen in the Narragansett Historical Building.)

In 1825, John Boynton started the manufacturing of tin ware and five years later David Whitcomb became his partner in this business.

Ethel M. Eaton wrote an article for the Christian Science Monitor which reveals something of the history of this industry and from which we quote: "Back in 1740, William and Edward Pattison came from England and settled in Connecticut at Berlin, not far from Hartford. There they started

a business of making tinware, a trade they had learned in the old country. These brothers Pattison imported sheets of tin from England at Boston and carried it by horseback to Connecticut. It was pounded into shape by wooden mallets over anvils. The finished articles were packed into a basket with which the brothers travelled over the nearby countryside, finding a ready market in cottage and farmhouse. When the industry outgrew the basket stage the goods were put into large panniers on the back of a horse, a method later supplanted by the two-wheeled cart and finally by the tin peddler's wagon". One of these wagons can be seen in our Narragansett Historical Building.

Some years ago, when writing programs for the radio, I included one, entitled "The Tin Peddler" which I am inserting here.

## THE TIN PEDDLER

One day in the spring of 1942, when a group of workmen were digging a ditch on the Hubbardston Road, they found a large quantity of pieces of tin. The deeper they dug, the more they found.

The Boy Scouts were active in collecting scrap for war purposes. When they heard what the men had found, they rushed to the scene, but were doomed to disappointment, for the entire quantity of tin was covered with iron rust and good for nothing. This discovery gave rise to much wonderment to the men who were digging the ditch, for they did not live in the town and knew little of its history.

Presently, along came one of the older residents, Robert Bourn, who stopped to look at the discovery. The leader of the workmen said: "Why should such a quantity of scrap tin be found in this particular spot?"

Mr. Bourn pointed to the large structure opposite and said: "That building, now known as the Grange Hall, was once a tin shop."

"Do you mean the tin utensils were actually made there?" said the man.

"Yes," said Mr. Bourn, "and the house beyond was where some of the pieces were japanned."

"Was it a large business?" asked the man.

"Over 100 years ago the making of tin utensils was one of the town's leading industries. Twenty-five tin carts went out into the neighboring district to sell the wares," Mr. Bourn explained.

These peddlers returned from their routes every Saturday night, creating great local interest. At the Tavern, in the blacksmith's shop or around the box stove at the store, the peddlers told stories and related items of news that they had picked up while away on their routes. Mr. Bourn's father, when a young lad, went on a trip with one of these peddlers. As they rode along, the boy discovered that in the cart were pieces of rope. To his inquiry as to the use of them, the peddler replied: "You wait and see." Sometime before entering a village, if a dog appeared, the peddler would catch him and tie him to the cart. After a goodly number had been collected he would gather up his reins and drive briskly into the village, the dogs barking furiously all the way. All this commotion attracted attention, so there was no trouble in selling the tinware. After leaving the village, the peddler would release the dogs and then do the same thing before entering the next town. Such was the advertising method in the early part of the 19th century. These tin carts were crude affairs; one-horse vehicles, supported by thorough braces—the body hung on straps instead of springs, and painted a dull red.



But in later years, when Charles Roundy succeeded to the business, he built a new cart, much larger than the old ones, with springs instead of straps and painted a bright red. This cart was drawn by a beautiful pair of roan horses, named Romeo and Noble, and they were decked out with silver-mounted harnesses. Mr. Roundy wore an expensive broad-cloth suit, made by Macullar and Parker of Boston, and the famous derby hat. The children were greatly excited when the cart was seen coming down the street. They were ever ready to give the alarm. "Oh mother, mother, Mr. Roundy is coming!" Then out of the houses would come the housewives, bringing their huge bags of rags ready to exchange for the bright new tin ware: pans, pots and kettles, dippers, cups and plates. Sometimes peppermint sticks for the children and other attractions were found in that magic cart.

In the early days, the tin business was carried on by two men, John Boynton and David Whitcomb. They made much money in this industry and gave of their wealth to worth while purposes.

John Boynton, after retiring from business, went to Worcester to live. While there, he had a dream. He fancied he saw, in his home town, a large building, with letters over the door which read "School of Technology." All his life, he had felt the need of mechanical training. He wished he might do something about establishing a school for boys who were seeking such knowledge, and which he hoped might be built in Templeton. He went to see one of the leading ministers of the city and told him about his dream-desire.

"That is strange," said the minister. "Not long ago my friend, the blacksmith, came to me and said that he had had a dream and wished that a school of that kind might be built".

The minister suggested that the two men of vision pool their resources and see what could be accomplished. "But,"



he said, "place your school in Worcester and not in a little country town."

The blacksmith had little money, but he had a wealth of ideas and a good supply of mechanical equipment. John Boynton had the money.

Thus out of the dreams of a blacksmith and a tin peddler, The Worcester Polytechnic Institute was founded. And money earned in the old town by making tinware was put to a worthy use.

Through the town (which covered about 20,000 acres) there were found rivers, brooks, and ponds, furnishing water power for sawmills and other industries. Otter River, at the north end, Burnshirt River, Trout Brook and Beaver Brook. From these names one might infer that otters, beavers and trout were plentiful in these early days, though Snake Pond might suggest creatures not any too welcome.

Goulding Village, a part of Phillipston, was a center for many activities. The White Sewing Machine manufacturing was started there by the descendants of those pioneers who lived in the cave on White hill. Afterward this sewing machine business was moved to Cleveland, Ohio.

Also, the Derby Chair Shop began business there and later was moved to Gardner; and so business grew in all parts of the town.

Frank Baker of Phillipston states that at one time there were a cotton mill, a woolen mill and two chair shops in this village. One shop was carried on by Frank Whitney, who made children's wood-seated chairs. Damon & Parker made cane-seated chairs. A small business is now (1946) being operated by Melvin Dunn, making the wooden part of the time recorder clocks.

Mr. Dawson at the Center (Phillipston) is sawing lumber

for chairs. Trucks going through towns now make it simpler for a small business to market its products.

Mr. Baker told of one incident at the town's centennial celebration. Some men attempted to set up a fakir's stand near the cemetery, and the town constable, Charles Barton, told them to leave. One man said: "What can you do? You have no lock-up." Mr. Barton, never at a loss for words, replied: "There's a tomb over there that no one ever got out of." And the men departed.

### **The Business of Bourn, Hadley & Co.**

The business of Bourn, Hadley & Co. is the outgrowth of the furniture business carried on by Benjamin Hawkes and his three sons, George, James and Edwin. They formerly made furniture by hand at a shop located where the public library now stands.

About 1820, a man by the name of Withington built an "up and down" sawmill at Trout Brook, near Pine Grove Cemetery. Later Benjamin Hawkes transferred his business to the mill where it was carried on by Colonel George P. Hawkes.

Isaac Bourn and John Brooks, after sixteen years in the lumber trade, bought the manufacturing business of Colonel Hawkes. In 1865, Bourn and Brooks enlarged the shop, employed more men and made, first, pine furniture and later, chestnut and ash. In 1879, John Brooks sold his share to Lucian N. Hadley and George W. Bourn. The new company went by the name of Bourn, Hadley and Co., Isaac Bourne being the senior partner.

In February 1885, William H. Kilner and George W. Bourn started the finishing business in the storehouse and continued it for several years. Later they dissolved partnership, and Bourn and Hadley Co., continued to carry on this business. Nearly all the furniture was finished, only a small

part remained in its natural state. In 1905, a second storehouse was built, much larger than the first. It was opened on December 11, with more than two hundred people present. There were speeches, music, dancing, and an oyster stew supper. On the fifth of August, 1890, a fire broke out in the night and all the buildings were burned. The loss amounted to \$35,000, with only \$8,000 insurance. The townspeople, to show their appreciation of the value of the business to the community, purchased and presented to the company the land where the present factory stands. Two weeks after the fire, the erection of a new three-story building was begun, and in November of that same year it was ready for occupancy.

In March, 1899, Isaac Bourn sold his share to his sons, Robert T. and William E. Bourn, who retained the same company name. They employed fifty to sixty men. In addition to some local trade, they had between two and three hundred regular customers in New England and New York who exported part of their stock to Europe.

They bought timber lots and sold large quantities of lumber. In 1900, they furnished a large share of the lumber for the Templeton Inn.

Note: (This information was obtained from an article written about 1900 by Mrs. Jeanette Hadley, wife of Lucian Hadley.)

Robert Bourn, who became a partner before 1900, was an inventor and, among other things, produced postoffice equipment which was manufactured at the shop and used widely throughout the United States.

At one time, George Hadley became a partner of the firm, but later opened a factory in Athol.

In September, 1929, Bourn, Hadley and Co., sold their plant to Conant and Ball of Gardner, who are doing business now (1946) in the same shop, employing a large number of Templeton men.

\* \* \* \* \*



Gardner, between 1785 and 1832, was in its infancy and the inhabitants came to Templeton to do shopping, as we now go to Gardner. For additional information, read the little pamphlet entitled "Historical Sketch of Templeton Common" written by Captain V. P. Parkhurst. In it will be found a map of the common giving the location of important buildings. This document will be found in our Historical Building.

In 1832, the Trinitarian Congregational Church was built on the opposite side of the common from the First Parish Church.

Templeton was growing, but we have more to tell about its development and the coming of railroads.

### IMPORTANT DATES

1787	Buildings erected
1787	West part of town incorporated, named Gerry
1805	Rev. Ebenezer Sparhawk died
1807	Rev. Charles Wellington ordained
1811	Present First Parish Church built
1814	Town of Gerry's name changed to Phillipston
1825	John Boynton established the tin business
1829	Colonel Lee built the present store building
1830	David Whitcomb became partner with John Boynton
1832	Congregational Trinitarian Church built



### CHAPTER III.

## Industrial Development and The Coming of the Railroads—1832-1882

THE population of the town was continually increasing and more houses and buildings erected.

In 1832, the Trinitarian Congregational Church was built and with its spire added an impressive mark to the landscape; and in that same year, the organ was placed in the First Parish Church. The ministers of these two churches (Dr. Wellington and his assistant, Mr. Adams, and Dr. Sabin) worked together to help the people of the town, not only by their spiritual leadership, but by their knowledge in legal matters and service on school committees and other town interests.

The animals in those days roamed at will; the cows were not tethered, so each house was fenced in. These fences were made, "horse high, bull proof and pig tight". They were usually picket fences and at the entrance side of the house there was a little gate, which when opened and shut gave a sharp click to announce the arrival or departure of the caller. Some of these fences were picturesque and added much to the appearance of the community. Most of them now have been taken down, but those at the Baker house and the Cham-

berlin house still remain. Near the gate was found the hitching-post, where the restless horse was firmly tied. Some of these posts were quite decorative. One I remember represented a horse's head with an iron ring in its mouth, ready for the rope or halter.

The stone walls made then were masterpieces of art, strong and firm and gave the look of prosperity to the countryside. Colonel Artemus Lee, one of Templeton's most influential citizens, was instrumental in having the trees set out around the common. This project was begun in the year 1843. Colonel Lee had the soil analyzed and decided that ash trees were best adapted to this location. Though they are late in leafing out they are sturdy and strong and withstand storms and hurricanes.

All this time roads were being built and improved.

Templeton was located at the junction of three stage lines; Boston to Albany, Worcester to Keene, Lowell to Springfield.

The Massachusetts Turnpike line extended from Greenfield to Northfield, in two direct lines which united at Athol, thence to Templeton via Brooksvillage.

The stage coach, a popular and picturesque means of transportation, was a big asset to the town. The passing through of these coaches to various parts of the country made Templeton a center for change of horses and dinners at the hotel.

The first construction of this means of travel was a curious vehicle, supposed to hold twelve people. The benches were placed crosswise and facing the driver. In order to enter, the passengers had to get in over the front wheel. These coaches had no springs or rubber-tired wheels.

After a time came the Concord coach, which some of us remember. The interior was lined with leather or carpeting and had comfortable seats. It had an iron railing around the top, where hair trunks, portmanteaus and band boxes were

placed. Some of the coaches had seats on top as well as inside. Where this story came from I do not know, but it was told to me: "A very fat man instructed a friend to engage two seats for him, that he might have plenty of room. When he arrived at the starting point, he found one seat was inside and one on the top of the coach."

The Concord coach remained in operation, even after the railroads were put through the country.

The drivers of these vehicles were usually fine men, courteous and highly respected; always ready to do errands and commissions and were especially welcomed by the men of the town; for they brought news from the neighboring countryside. Many stories of important events were told around the box stove at the store and blacksmith shop.

It must have been exciting to stand on the hotel veranda and watch the approach of one of these coaches. Usually there were four horses, two abreast. "The driver sitting up on the high seat, wearing in winter a buffalo-skin coat, fur cap, with ear protectors, wool tippet, furlined overshoes and long red stockings, for he was much exposed and needed these warm articles of clothing. The horses seemed to know that this was the place for dinner and an hour of rest. They would dash up to the door of the hotel at full speed, and as the driver gave the signal with the reins, they would stop just at the right spot."

Then the driver would get down from his high seat, whip in hand and enter the Tavern for his refreshment.

A well-known driver of the stage coach was Genery Twichell, brother of Francis Twichell who kept the inn at the corner house. He began to drive the coach at the age of nineteen, between Barre and Worcester and in time became the owner of two hundred horses. During this period, he was also a pony express rider. Because of a special feat of horseback riding,



he was given the name of "The Unrivalled Express Rider". There were no telephones or telegraphs then, so messages were sent by these horseback riders.

Genery Twichell was not a native of Templeton (he was born in Athol), but since he was a brother of one of the town's prominent men, we will record this famous ride. The leading newspapers of New York were eager to secure dispatches expected to arrive in Boston on the S. S. Hibernia in January, 1846, which had an important bearing on the Oregon boundary line. The New York Herald made arrangements to carry its own dispatches from Boston to Norwich by railroad thence by boat to Long Island and across the Island by express rider to New York City. The Tribune and other papers were excluded by the Herald from participating in this arrangement. So the Tribune engaged Mr. Twichell to bring the dispatches. He was obliged to use horse instead of steam power for most of the distance. He could obtain an engine from Boston to Worcester only on condition that it start fifteen minutes behind the Herald train. From Worcester to Hartford, sixty miles, he rode on horseback, with relays of horses every ten miles, through deep snow, in three hours and twenty minutes. Then from Hartford to New Haven, thirty-six miles, by railroad; from New Haven to New York, seventy-six miles by horse, and he reached New York City in season for the printing of the dispatches before the arrival of the Herald train.

So important dispatches were sent by pony express riders; long distance travel was made by stage coaches.

The doctor and the minister rode in the one-horse chaise, and the farmers' families rode to church in the carryall. One grandmother, in addition to her home work, took it upon herself to wash the carryall every Saturday ready for use on Sunday.



A picturesque and much needed article of usefulness in the stage coach days was the watering trough. It was usually found by some mountain stream, covered with moss, with a little tin cup at one end and a lower trough for small animals, so man, horse and dog could be refreshed.

Because travel then was comparatively slow, it was necessary to have taverns as well as hotels. Brooksvillage as well as Templeton Center, had these places of entertainment. The largest tavern in town was located in East Templeton in the house now occupied by Dr. Harold Eames and family.

All this time, the north part of the town was growing. Otter River, first known as Factory village, then contained places of business and residential houses.

Several years ago, Charles Stearns Lord, wrote an article concerning Baldwinville, in which he tells something of the business of that section of the town. This article is now available at the Narragansett Historical Building. "In the early days it was known as 'The North' and the name clung to it long after it was officially known by its present name.

In 1831, the postoffice was established and the village called Baldwinville for Eden Baldwin, and his father, Jonathan Baldwin, one of the first settlers.

In 1847, the Vermont and Massachusetts Railroad was put through the town. The coming of this railroad was one of the biggest assets in Templeton's history, and we nearly lost this desired acquisition.

The original charter provided that it should pass through Templeton, but residents of Fitchburg and Winchendon tried to change the route via Winchendon.

A trial was held in the Baptist Church in Baldwinville, before the County Commissioner. The town had for counsel, Charles Allen of Worcester, one of the foremost lawyers in the state, and Joseph Mason of Templeton. The trial lasted

for several days. It was finally decided in favor of our town and thus sustained the charter. This was one of the most exciting events in the history of Templeton up to that time."

More of the history of Baldwinville will be found in a special chapter on that village. About a mile from Templeton Common, in the west section, the Ware River Railroad, was put through the town via Baldwinville and on to Winchendon, thus making Baldwinville a junction of two railroads. The first passenger train passed through October 30, 1873. This was a great advantage to the village of Templeton, not alone for transportation facilities but for the shops located nearby.

In 1848, the old town hall was built, the large two-storied building on the corner of the Athol road. The town meetings were held there, and the large hall was a center for many activities, for entertainments, including vaudeville, but perhaps more especially for dancing, and throughout the day the rooms were used by the schools. In front of this building is a large stone step—three and one-half feet wide, seventeen feet long and standing one foot from the ground, the largest stone of its kind for many miles around.

In 1849, came the gold rush to California. Some of the men went across the continent to seek their fortunes. Charles Roundy started, but got no farther than Chicago. He decided he could make more money by selling tickets at a premium to those who went on that mad rush—and that proved true. He came back with more money than those who ventured further.

The Templeton High School was established in 1856 and was kept in the large room in the Old Town Hall. Hosea F. Lane, a native of Ashburnham, was the principal. Some of the teachers in the grade school will long be remembered; the much beloved Maria Cutting who said she made cutting remarks, Henrietta Sawyer who later became a teacher in Washington University at St. Louis and Margaret Leland not



only a good teacher but one of Templeton's most able musicians. But more about Mr. Lane and the schools will be found in a special chapter on that subject.

In 1857, Rev. Edwin G. Adams wrote the "Historical Discourses", another valuable document concerning church and town history, a copy of which will be found at the public library and at the Historical Building. In that same year, 1857, the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Dr. Wellington's pastorate was observed.

In 1859, the clock was placed in the First Parish Church, a gift of Joshua Bigelow, a Boston merchant and a native of Templeton.

In the beginning of this century, the Military Musters were started and became one of the town's important events. Just before and after the early wars, the musters were well attended, and it became the great event of the year. As Mr. Lane writes in his history: "Templeton abounded in these military gatherings. It was the central town in a group of six from which was gathered the material for one regiment. It was well supplied with hotels and desirable on account of the parade ground which the Common afforded". It was an exciting day with the parade, marching and counter marching, the formation of the soldiers and the sham fights. The Officers wore blue uniforms with brass buttons and red plumes in their hats and carried swords. The music was thrilling and for refreshments gingerbread was sold at two cents a sheet. Leonard Stone, Colonel of one of the regiments was noted for his loud voice. It was said that a man while working in his field, three miles away, could hear Colonel Stone give the orders to his company on those muster days. A fuller account of these musters will be found in the large scrap book at the Narragansett Historical Building and also V. P. Parkhurst's "Sketch of Templeton Common."



Before the advent of the fire engine, "the bucket brigade" was the means of fighting fire. Two lines were formed, one for the full bucket and one for the empty one; the buckets being passed from hand to hand. After a time came the suction hose fire engine, each village having one. The fire musters held with rival engines were exciting events. The firemen wore red flannel shirts, dark trousers and black hats. Templeton Center's engine can be seen in the Narragansett Historical Building.

The fire companies throughout the town have always given heroic service, ever prompt and ready at the call of the alarm. The fact that these companies are composed of men who are employed in shops, stores and on the farms makes their service especially commendable, and we marvel at their promptness when called upon to fight fire. It is related that once when an alarm was given, the first officer of the Narragansett Company was attending a dance in Memorial Hall, East Templeton. He was on the floor dancing with his wife and without the formality of taking her to a seat, he left the hall at once and went to the fire.

John H. Ryan, who gave over fifty years of service to the Templeton Center Company has left on record some interesting facts which are incorporated in this account.

The Narragansett No. 6 Engine Company was formed on May 13, 1843. Stephen Maynard, John W. Work and Frank Fiske were chosen as officers. The first fire was on June 15, of that same year, at Joel Richardson's house on the Otter River road and Dr. Sabin's horse drew the engine. This engine, kept under the old Town House, was of the rotary pattern, with six men on a handle, and water had to be poured into the tub, as there was no suction.

In 1845, this Engine Company voted to disband and divide the prize money among those who had paid their fines up to

date. They also sold the bell and divided the money received.

In 1851, a new company was appointed by the selectmen. This company and its successors have been in service ever since.

The first muster on Templeton Common was held on July 4, 1860. Stephen Maynard was then the First Marshal. The engines to compete were—Narragansett No. 6, Templeton Center; Tiger, Brooksvillage; Ellsworth, Baldwinville; Bay State, East Templeton; and Hero, Otter River. The companies were escorted to their places by the Baldwinville Band. They dined at the Twichell Hotel, where speeches and toasts were given.

These musters have always been joyful occasions, attended by many people, old and young. Often Narragansett No. 6 took a prominent part on these occasions and came off with many prizes.

After a time, the Baldwinville Company acquired the Tiger engine from Brooksvillage; East Templeton bought a new engine, the Rough and Ready; and Otter River replaced the Hero with the Oregon. When the East Templeton Company purchased a steamer, the Rough and Ready went to Templeton Center and with that Company made its first appearance on the muster field in Athol, October 9, 1896, and captured the first prize, \$300 in gold. After that, the Rough and Ready was used at many musters in the surrounding towns and won nearly \$4,000 prize money.

Mention should be made of James M. Maynard, who gave fifty years of service as foreman. Because of his good generalship and the excellent teamwork of his men, much destruction by fire has been averted and a fine display of strength and energy exhibited on these muster days. Mr. Maynard was succeeded as foreman in 1921, by H. Edwin Hawkes, which



position he held until he was chosen Fire Engineer in 1946, and is still serving in that capacity.

Another man of faithful service was Henry Seaver who held the office of Fire Engineer for many years.

Now the villages of the town are supplied with powerful steam engines, with modern equipment, and the arduous hand pumping is no longer necessary.

And so to all the fire companies of the town we wish to give due acknowledgment for their excellent service.

We have now come to the most tragic period in the story of our town up to this time — the Civil War, which greatly affected the development of our community and brought sadness and sorrow to many of Templeton's families. The war lasted four years, from 1861-1865. The town was ready and eager to do her part. Public meetings were held and patriotic addresses given throughout the town, and the ministers preached stirring sermons. The flag was displayed on all public buildings and was even seen on the corner of letter envelopes. The popular war song was often heard:

“Tramp, tramp, tramp, the boys are marching,  
Cheer up, comrades, they will come,  
And beneath the starry flag  
We shall breathe the air again  
Of the free land in our own beloved home.”

Company A of the 21st regiment, composed of 56 men from Templeton was formed. The town also furnished 34 men in the 25th regiment, 31 men in the 36th regiment, and others followed.

Templeton then had a population of 2,816 and furnished no less than 200 men for service. The tallest man who went from our town was Wyman Stone of Otter River, who measured over six feet, and he was shot in the lowest extremity, the foot.



The women at home did their part, in making articles for the comfort of the soldiers. Aside from the usual necessities, they cut and dried apples in large quantities. The men found this fruit most refreshing and not difficult to carry about. The soldiers experienced exciting adventures as the following story sent in by Kenneth Bourn reveals. "One day while on picket duty, a member of the 21st regiment was lying beside a small stream, dozing after more than two weeks of almost continual battle. Suddenly shots rang out, a few feet away—the picket made himself as inconspicuous as possible and held his breath. Then he heard a group of Rebels across the stream and glancing cautiously toward them, saw them remove their clothing and start to swim in the river, leaving their guns on the farther bank. They passed the picket so close they might have touched him. Then they fell to skinning a cow that they had shot with the burst of fire, a few moments before. In his fright, the picket had been ignorant of the presence of the cow; but the sight of fresh beef, after weeks of battle fare of salt pork and hardtack, brought him into action. Cocking his musket, he captured the astonished Confederates and marched into camp with his undressed prisoners and freshly dressed cow." For many years our veterans of this Civil War have had their special memorial on the 30th of May, decorating the soldiers' graves, giving or listening to addresses, reviewing the past and marching to the beat of martial music, but now not one remains to tell his story.

The Ericson Post of the Grand Army was formed in 1869. Many of these men will be remembered. One especially stands out clearly, Prescott Cutting, whom every one loved and respected. He lived in the house now owned by Dr. Edwin St. John Ward. The following story about him may be of interest: "He was a little man with stooped shoulders, thin gray hair and pointed beard; but he always had a merry

twinkle in his eye and a cheery word for every one. His greatest pleasure was telling stories around the stove at the store or at the blacksmith shop. The good man had one bad habit however; he was forever losing his umbrella! He was a farmer and did much of his work with oxen; and sometimes he used his ox-driven cart to transport him to distant farms or to the stores in a neighboring town. One rainy day he was obliged to attend to some business several miles away. Before starting, he looked in vain for an umbrella. Since none could be found, he asked his wife to lend him her black silk one. Knowing his weakness, she was reluctant to let him have it, for it was one of her cherished possessions. But he solemnly promised to bring it back and started off in his ox cart, holding the prized umbrella over his head. He reached his destination, transacted his business, told his stories, then started on his homeward way. He had gone about two miles when he suddenly remembered the umbrella! With a sigh he got out of the cart, left the oxen feeding in the ditch and walked back to the store. As he entered, he said anxiously, 'Has any one seen my wife's black silk umbrella?' One of the men looked at him, laughed and said, 'What's that you got in your hand?' It was the lost umbrella!"

This story does not concern a veteran of the Civil War, but an elderly man who lived on a farm. He had a field that needed to be ploughed and which would require strong oxen and a strong hand to guide the plough. He had the oxen but no strong man. One evening, at supper, he looked at his grandson, who was a frail lad, and said, "I wish you were strong enough to plough the field". That night the household went to bed, and the next morning when the man went out to the barn to take care of his stock, to his amazement, he found the oxen covered with mud and breathing heavily. He returned to the house and on the way noticed that the field was care-



fully and evenly ploughed. His grandson not being at the breakfast table, he went upstairs to his room and found the boy all dressed and besprent with mire, stretched across the bed, entirely exhausted. The field had been ploughed in a sleep-walking scene.

In chapter two, we mentioned David Whitcomb, active in the tin business, who once lived in the house now used as the church parsonage. In 1868, he gave the library to the town, which all through the years has meant much to the people. He gave this library in memory of his partner, John Boynton, and requested that it be named for him.

The Templeton Savings Bank was incorporated in 1871 in Baldwinville and continued a useful institution until the time of the merger of the banks decreed by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1933.

From the very beginning, Templeton has been blessed with men and women of fine calibre. We owe these people of influence sincere gratitude for their interest in the town's development. It is interesting to note that in the early days, the Christian names of the inhabitants were generally Biblical ones, as Ebenezer, Zaccheus, Noah, Benjamin, Jacob, Moses, Daniel, Joshua, Abel, Jonathan, etc.; Esther, Ruth, Rebecca, Sarah and Rachel. In the latter part of this period, simpler names came into use: Charles, William, Henry, George and John; Mary, Jane, Elizabeth, Margaret and Henrietta.

Templeton has always abounded in men of mechanical ability. Eli Bruce, one of the early settlers, living in Baldwinville, was a very ingenious man. He repaired jewelry, constructed pipe organs and made clocks. I have one of his tall grandfather clocks in my home, and it is the most reliable time-keeper in the house. It is well over 100 years old and made by hand. Eli Bruce also invented a machine for making pins out of wire, heading and pointing them. Later, John Nichols in-



troduced a special form of street lamp, in which the lamp slides down through a hollow post for the convenience of lighting. The draft of air for the lamp was also through the post, so that it burned steadily when the wind blew. These lamps on their posts were placed all over the town, giving to men and boys a most useful and exciting occupation of filling, cleaning and lighting them. For some time, Frank Winch and his brother had the job of caring for them in Templeton Center. They filled the bottom of the lamp bowl with corn to prevent the oil from burning longer than the desired time.

During this period, Orville J. Winch, father of Frank and Mary, was one of Templeton's largest shoe makers. Leander Leland made the shoe pegs for him. On a stream, tributary to the Ware River in the southwest part of the town, was located the old cider mill; formerly Mr. Leland made the shoe pegs there with an ingenious machine which he invented. These pegs, together with Mr. Winch's shoe maker's outfit, are now on exhibition at the Narragansett Historical Building.

Some time ago, Frank Winch wrote his memories of Templeton, and from his article I quote concerning his father's shop. "Father was a shrewd business man, wise in his buying and honest in his dealings, even to a penny. Once he made an error of seven cents in change which he owed to a customer who lived three miles away. I had to walk those six miles to deliver the pennies.

His early life was one of hard work, he had little time for play. Perhaps that is why he grew up to be a serious minded man. He had some disappointments in his young life.

His Aunt Emma made his clothes after the style prevalent at the time when she was young. Father worked hard one summer to earn money to buy the cloth for a new suit and to pay a tailor for making it. He bought the cloth and took it home and told Aunt Emma not to touch it. But when he

came home from school one day, he found that Aunt Emma had cut out the suit by the old pattern. She made an extra wide hem on the trousers, so they could be let down, as he grew in stature.

A brighter incident in my father's youth, was when he was 13 years old. He worked out haying — and when the work was done the farmer owed him \$14 but had no money to pay the boy and so in exchange gave him an old lounge and a barrel of soft soap.

The soap was put to immediate use; the lounge was covered with a green ingrain carpet material and served our family most faithfully for many years. The frame was made of mahogany and cherry wood, a rare specimen of workmanship and today is valued at \$1,200.

Father built a large two story house on the south road which until recently has been owned by the Winch family. He built a barn just back of the house and perhaps some of you know that the material used for the underpinnings was taken from the famous sled which held the great 40 cord load of wood taken to Dr. Wellington in 1822. Father first carried on the shoe business in one end of the long building located on the site where the Narragansett Historical Society Building now stands. But in my childhood, he built a shop south of the barn. It was a small one-story structure and was heated by a sheet-iron barrel stove. On the shelves were the shoes. On the counter were kept odds and ends, shoe lacings, button-hooks, blacking, polish, etc. Under the shelf, rubbers, over-shoes or arctics, as they were then called. It was lighted by hanging lamps and at the right of the window by a bracket lamp, with a large reflector, which threw the light down the road and illuminated the sign over the door. This latter was oblong in shape and painted blue, with a gilt shoe one side and the name, J. O. Winch, painted on the other end.



Shoes were made by hand and all the townspeople, big and little, had their measurements taken for footwear. All women wore button boots, priced \$1.50 to \$2.25. Some were made of glove kid, soft and long-wearing. These shoes were made without a vamp. For men, were made cowhide boots for winter and brogans of the same material for summer. This was a low shoe coming just over the ankle and held together by a leather strap. After awhile felt boots took the place of cowhide. Then for comfort, after the day's work was done, was worn the carpet slipper made of Brussels carpeting with a leather inner sole, sold for 50 cents a pair.

Father also acted as the village barber and cut hair at 10 cents a cut with 5 cents extra for trimming the beard. He rubbed the head with a little bay rum and oil of bergamont and a trace of bear's oil, to make the unruly hair lie flat." Because of this oily ingredient antimacassars were made and used on the back of the living room chairs. Shoes will always be bought and sold, but none will be more painstakingly and honestly constructed than those made by J. O. Winch in the old town.

Inventors and manufacturers were busy throughout the town giving work and employment to many people. Chair shops brought cane seating into the homes. The women were glad of this work for it gave them extra money to spend. More about the business enterprises will be found in a special chapter on the subject.

But I would like to mention the manufacture of stoves which for many years was an important industry in Otter River, for there is an amusing incident to relate in this connection. The business was carried on for many years by Charles Lord and William Stone. They sent out carts with sample stoves, like the tin peddler carts, all over New England. In this business came the collecting of money from



the farmers. Ready cash was not always available, and the collector was obliged to take farm products in part payment. Once Mr. Stone took two beautiful peacocks as part of the price for a stove. He put them in a fenced-in field, and for some time they could be seen strutting around, displaying their gorgeous plumage. One day a dog got into the field, chased and killed them, but one was in fairly good condition so the firm had it stuffed and presented it to the Historical Society. Today it can be seen ornamenting the attic in front of the window of the new building.

The Hospital Cottages for children in Baldwinville was organized and incorporated in 1882. It was through the influence of Dr. Lucius W. Baker and his father, deacon Willard Baker, that this worth while institution was started.

Mrs. Ward, wife of Dr. Edwin St. John Ward, who for several years was in charge of this institution, has written an account of this hospital which will be found in the chapter on Baldwinville.

Dr. Edwin St. John Ward was sent to Turkey in 1907, by the American Board of Foreign Missions, and in 1911 became Professor of Surgery at the American University at Beirut. From 1924 to 1931, he was Dean of the Medical School of the University.

His valuable service during World War I in establishing a field hospital in the desert near Hafir under the American Red Cross, with outposts for the wounded near the fighting front, and subsequent work in the Near East, is graphically told in an article found in the large Scrap Book at the Naragansett Historical Building.

Dr. Ward came to the Hospital Cottages for Children in 1933. His services there to the present day (1946) and his assistance in town affairs are invaluable.

Throughout the town, especially during this period, were

living farseeing and influential men and women, businessmen, teachers, doctors, and ministers, all giving their services for the betterment of the community, and it is well for us to pay homage to them.

“Should auld acquaintance be forgot  
And never brought to mind,  
Should auld acquaintance be forgot  
And days of auld lang syne.”

### DATES TO REMEMBER

1832	Stage coach days
1843	Colonel Lee set out trees
1845	Rev. Edwin G. Adams came as Assistant Pastor at First Parish
1846	Pony Express rider
1847	Vermont and Massachusetts Railroad
1848	Town Hall built
1856	High School established
1857	Celebration of Dr. Wellington's 50th Anniversary
1859	Clock placed in First Parish Church
1860	First Fireman's Muster
1861	Civil War
1868	Library given by David Whitcomb
1869	Ericson Post, G. A. R. established
1871	Savings Bank established
1873	Ware River RR put through
1882	Cottage Hospital established

## CHAPTER IV.

# The Coming of Electricity and World War I 1882-1924

WHEN writing the words of "Auld Lang Syne" at the end of the last chapter, it recalled one of the town's important residents, Francis Leland, for this was one of his favorite songs. He was the grandson of Dr. Wellington and lived in Otter River, but all through his life he attended the services at the First Parish. He and his family, as well as the Lords and Stones, drove each Sunday to the church on the hilltop in Templeton Center, three miles away. In winter they rode in open sleighs with hot soapstones at their feet and little stones in the ladies' hand muffs. The men wore fur coats and caps with ear protectors; the women, fur-lined capes with scarves over their bonnets. In summer, they rode in carryalls and phaetons. They seldom missed a Sunday, and when the minister saw them coming, he knew it was time for him to leave the parsonage and enter the house of worship.

The Lords and the Stones, in turn, held positions in the church as deacons, Sunday school superintendents, and teachers. Francis Leland sang in the choir and served as chorister



for many years, while his sister, Margaret Leland, played the organ. He and his sister were ever ready to assist in church entertainments such as Old Folks' concerts and the like.

At one time, Mr. Leland represented the town in the state legislature. He was a merchant by trade and kept a large store at Otter River, carrying dry goods, groceries and all things needed in the household.

Once a resident of the village went to Worcester to do some shopping and her special errand was to match some material for a dress. She could not find it in the large city, but on her return found a perfect match at Leland's store.

When I was a little girl, I learned the multiplication table from the "Marmaduke Multiplier", a little book which has been presented to the Narragansett Historical Society. Each couplet was illustrated. Imagine my delight when I found a picture of a small girl holding up a book, and under the picture was written: "4 x 11 are 44. I bought this book at Francis' Store"!

In 1883, Mr. Leland built the brick store, with its large hall overhead which has ever been useful for village and town affairs.

Some of the early settlements in the town were made in Otter River. Leonard Stone and Jeremiah Lord were among the first settlers. They were upright and conscientious men, as the following incident, told by Charles Lord, illustrates:

"We had a lot of hay get wet on a Saturday, and my father decided that it was best to remain at home from church and dry the hay. I was a young boy then and worked with him. When I saw coming in sight the faithful Baptists I said: 'Father, had we not better go into the house until they go by?' He made reply: 'I am none of your hypocrites', and kept on with his work. I stayed by him, never doubting his

assertion, and at the same time accepted the reproof and profited by the lesson."

Mr. Lord once said he was glad he lived in Otter River because it gave him the opportunity to know so well the fine businessmen of that village and of Baldwinville. Through his church connections at the Center he knew well the good men there and those of East Templeton, for many from that village attended the First Parish.

We have mentioned the fact that the minister and doctor went about in the early days in the "one-horse shay", and the open sleigh in winter. These doctors ever gave conscientious service. There were no specialists then; they were all general practitioners, and knew how to treat all kinds of ailments, from a broken bone to a sore throat.

During the first part of this period, Dr. Joseph Batchelder was the physician. He was a very skillful surgeon also, and a public-spirited citizen. He took an active interest in promoting the construction of the Hoosac Tunnel, an important link between the East and the West, and during the Civil War was the assistant surgeon of the Twenty-First Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers.

How impatiently we awaited his arrival when we were sick! In the winter he would drive up in his open sleigh, tie the horse to the hitching post, cover him with a buffalo robe, take out his medicine case, then walk up the path to the door, stamp his feet to shake off the snow, and enter the house saying: "Well, well, well! What's the matter here?" His very presence made us feel better. He never wore an overcoat, but, like Lincoln, a heavy shawl fastened with a horse blanket pin, a cap with ear protectors and buckled arctics. He gave some of his best service in his latter life. Another much beloved doctor of this period was Dr. Albert Sylvester Tobin.

Later came Dr. Sewall Greenwood, father of Lucius Greenwood, and Dr. G. R. Johnson, father of Roswell Johnson. These two doctors gave faithful service to the townspeople, driving in all kinds of weather, from morn until well into the night, over hilly country, to relieve those in need.

During the latter part of the nineteenth century the housewives seldom went out to do marketing. The markets came to them in the form of cart peddlers; the meat cart, the fish cart, the soft-soap peddler, the man who came from over the hills bringing a special kind of sage cheese, the cart with the famous Westminster crackers, and, as we have already mentioned, the tin peddler's cart.

These carts were a great boon to the country people. The children loved them, for sometimes they were given some specialty. When the meat and fish carts arrived, the dogs and cats appeared from all directions ready to receive a bone or the head of a fish.

Throughout this period, several organizations and societies were formed. One of the most important was the Templeton Grange, established in the year 1885, which has ever been one of the leading societies of the town.

### TEMPLETON GRANGE

The first meeting of the Templeton Grange was held in Knights of Honor Hall on March 16, 1885, when interested citizens met to hear a lecture by a State Grange Deputy, Stanford Cook of Petersham. At the close of the meeting, 35 persons, 18 men and 17 women, paid their fees and signed an application for a charter.

Albert J. Robertson was elected by ballot to be the first Worthy Master; Mrs. Mary H. Dudley, the first Worthy Secretary and Mrs. Charles May, the first Worthy Treasurer. Other officers were elected at a later date.



The record of the early Grange shows that it was a social center for its members and that many pleasant evenings were spent in discussing current events. Farm problems came in for their share of attention, too, and no doubt members profited from this pooling of experiences. In the early days, the Grange appears to have supported a cooperative movement also, as the records show purchases of carloads of grain, coal and flour and unspecified quantities of syrup.

A Grange choir is mentioned, so we gather that the early members enjoyed singing, probably more than we do today. When sickness or other calamity visited the family of a member, the brother and sister members would go in a body to the home of the stricken one to take gifts and do necessary chores. Also, the early Grangers apparently visited other Granges, but little is said of their mode of transportation. In speaking of a proposed visit to Hubbardston, one of the brothers was authorized to secure a conveyance, presumably a team.

In 1897, the Templeton Grange found it desirable to purchase a building of its own, the one it still occupies, but which originally was much smaller. The Worthy Secretary, Rachel S. Titterton, under date of April 19, 1898, noted with some pride that the Grange meeting was called to order in "Grange Hall" by the worthy master; and Grange Hall it has been ever since.

With the turn of the century, cattle shows came into great popularity, and the record shows much activity and profit in conducting the same.

In 1910, with Past Master Henry Seaver in the chair, came the celebration of the 25th anniversary. It was voted at a meeting held on February 4, 1910, to have an all-day celebration on May 18th.

On March 19, 1930, with Past Master Walter E. Viner in the chair, Templeton Grange celebrated its 45th anniversary

with a public gathering at which Past Master Eugene C. Hersey burned the mortgage.

In 1935, with Past Master Oscar B. Nyman in the chair, the 50th anniversary was observed with due ceremony. It was at this gathering that Brother and Sister Hersey were honored with the presentation of the golden certificate and jewel. They were the only charter members who attained the distinction of becoming fifty-year members.

There are at this time (1946) two living members who have received the 50-year jewel — Brother George Howard and Brother Josiah Henshaw whose wife, the late Mary Shaw, likewise enjoyed this distinction.

It is unfortunate but inevitable that in preparing such a short history of our Grange, due credit cannot be given those faithful patrons who have worked so diligently on the fairs, the suppers, the dances, the plays and other activities without which the Grange could not live.

Two years have passed since the 60th anniversary of Templeton Grange was celebrated. Sister Virginia B. Bockus served as Worthy Master in 1946; and Brother Carter Winslow, who served during 1942, '43 and '44, is again heading the organization.

During World War II, 21 Grange members were in the service. At present the membership numbers around 160, a small segment of the national organization. Members live in Templeton and East Templeton. There is another Grange in Baldwinville which is a separate organization.

N.B. This information was furnished by Christopher H. Evensen.

In 1886, a high school was established in Baldwinville, because of the increase of population in that section, but more concerning this will be found in a special chapter on the schools of Templeton.

On March 11, 1888, came the biggest snow storm ever

known in Templeton. I was a young girl then and at that time had an interesting experience. In the month of March of the year of the fiftieth anniversary of this storm, I told the story over the air, giving myself the name of Mary Ann. I will insert part of the story here:

The morning before the great storm the sun was shining, but as the day advanced the clouds began to gather and at eventide "the sun was hid from sight before it set". The next day was dark and dreary, and before noon light snow was beginning to fall. It increased steadily throughout the day. When Father came in for supper, he said: "I predict the worst storm of the present season."

"Well", said Mother, "let the storm rage. We have enough to eat. There are lots of good things in the cellar; apples, celery, turnips and squashes, and all kinds of canned fruits and a good piece of corned beef."

So when evening came, we drew the shades, lighted the oil lamps, and sat around the open fire.

"Shut in from all the world without,  
We sat the clean winged hearth about,  
Content to let the north wind roar  
In baffled rage at pane and door."

Mother sat by the table darning stockings; I was at the other end of the table studying my geography lesson; Aunt sat in the ladder-back chair by the open fire, knitting; Uncle, who was visiting us, and Father sat at the other side talking about affairs of the day; and the tiger cat was curled up on the braided rug in front of the fire. At ten the clock was wound and the cat put into the barn. We each took a little tin safety lamp and went to bed.

When morning came "we looked upon a world unknown, on nothing we could call our own". I went to the chamber window — nothing but sky and snow and the chimneys and



rooftops of scattered houses. No horse-drawn sleighs with tinkling bells; no ox teams; not even a snow bird. Snow over everything and we were almost buried in it.

I went downstairs. The snow had drifted nearly to the tops of the windows and, like our supper, breakfast was eaten by the light of the lamp. Fortunately the barn was connected with the house so Father could feed the horse and let in our beautiful tiger cat. But no sound was heard outside, not even the whistle of the oncoming train.

Father and Uncle shoveled the snow from the door and around the windows. My Uncle Kendall lived about a quarter of a mile away; we could see the roof of his house from the chamber window. He ran a large dairy farm and supplied the village people with milk.

After dinner, Father said: "I am worried about Kendall. I do not see how he can get out to the barn to milk his cows", for the barn was on the other side of the house and some little distance away. He looked at me thoughtfully and then said: "Perhaps you can do it."

"Do what?" said I.

"Go over to Uncle Kendall's and bring back a little milk."

"How can I? I haven't any snowshoes."

Father said nothing, but went down cellar and presently appeared with two barrel heads. He cut off a portion on the side of each one, made holes for the heels and two little holes for ropes. It was before the days of bloomers for girls, so Father told me to put on a pair of his trousers. He turned them up at the bottom and tied them up with pieces of rope. Then I put on my heavy coat, knitted hood and red tippet. Father strapped on the barrel heads and helped me to get up on top of the snow. I found I could walk, and was eager to make the venture.

"Be careful," said Father. "I shall go upstairs and watch

you all the way and shall not leave my post until I see you return.”

Even as a child, I felt it was a thrilling experience, walking alone in that wilderness of snow. I found that Uncle Kendall had been able to tunnel out to the barn and had done his milking (though it took all the forenoon to accomplish it.) He said I could have all the milk I could carry. I said I could take two cans, one in each hand so they would balance.

On the way back, I left milk at the Youngs and the Walkers. Though Mother thought I should not attempt it, I made another trip and carried milk to other houses farther down the street, and I was most welcome at the homes where there were little children.

For two days I did this, and it went down in history how Mary Ann delivered the milk.

It was also in the year 1888 that Hosea F. Lane published “The History of Templeton”, a most valuable document, a copy of which may be found at our public library. Another event in our history that same year, 1888, was the burning of the Old Hotel.

We have now arrived at what was known as the Gay Nineties period and assuredly it was the gayest and happiest time in our history. Again I quote from one of my radio programs, for it seems to fit this story. Kenneth Bourn wrote some of the material, so now, as previously, I quote from our joint compilation.

“Those were the days when life was a song,  
When girls were modest and skirts were long  
And the boys were the kind that always paid  
Honest respect to a blushing maid.”

—*Cummings*

The town was still thriving in a business as well as a social way. The industries in the north part of the town were in

full swing, and the common in the center village continued to be the mecca for musters and ball games. Perhaps the vital interest was in the fall of the year when the local Grange held its cattle show, with its fine display of home products in the Town Hall and its exhibition of farm animals outside. Then for exciting diversion came the trial of fire engines and all kinds of races, ending with the greased pig race.

Besides the stagecoach, in the village streets were seen various kinds of conveyances — the carryall, the beach wagon, the democrat, the buggy, the phaeton with its fringed top, the dog cart, the two-wheeled gig, the buckboard, and the tall bicycle which proved disastrous to many a daring rider. Horseback riding was very popular — the women, on side saddles, with long flowing skirts, tall hats, and holding the little whips. All these vehicles and horses were housed in barns or stables. This was the time when the livery stable did a big business, for buggy riding was the favorite pastime for the young swain and his girl.

The men delighted in horse trading and were famous for their clever deals. Not only were there seen the hitching posts, but the tradesmen always carried hitching weights with attached chains.

In former days, as has been stated, the residents were given simple names — William, Charles, John, James, Mary, Harriet, Caroline, and Elizabeth. During this period, they were shortened to Willie, Charlie, Johnny, Jamie, Mamie, Hattie, Carrie, and Betty.

The news of the nineties was quite different from that of today; no radio broadcasts; in the newspapers no automobile page, no movie advertisements, no comics, no such words as 'permanent', 'upswing', or 'hair-do'; no Rotary Club or chain stores, and no Rose Bowl football.

Articles of clothing were long woolen underwear, top hats,



derby hats, and copper-toed shoes for the men. It was the day of the Gibson Girl and Maxfield Parrish. We listened to MacDowell's music and sang Moody and Sankey hymns; and the young people danced to "Banks of the Wabash", and "Sidewalks of New York". Some of the older people went to see Irving and Terry on the stage, and "Casey at the Bat".

At this period, the kitchen ceased to be the central meeting place; nearly all the houses had a dining-room and sitting-room as well as a parlor. The sitting-room and dining-room were where the family gathered. If the dining room was used, the long table was covered with a heavy dark cloth after the evening meal, and around the table the family sat for reading and study. Over the table was the hanging lamp which could be lowered or raised for the convenience of all.

In the parlor the floor was carpeted, usually with Brussels or Axminster. A lambrequin, silk and embroidered, covered the mantel. The haircloth furniture of the earlier period was banished, together with the hair wreaths, samplers, and prism lamps. These were replaced by more comfortable chairs upholstered in plush, oil paintings in gilt frames, and decorative lamps with silk shades. In the hall stood the hat rack, with a mirror in the center and around it pegs for coats and hats. Beneath was a little shelf, and on each side extensions for canes and umbrellas.

Young people enjoyed out-of-door games — croquet and lawn tennis — and some of them became expert players, even if the girls did have to wear long skirts, high collars, and sailor hats.

The costumes of the nineties were quite striking; skirts stiffened to make them stand out, high stiff collars, bustles, leg o' mutton sleeves, high button boots, cotton stockings, hats with plumes, and parasols. Women wore fob watch chains tucked into their belts, and also the chatelaine bag fastened

at the side. They also carried button hooks for their gloves. The men wore Prince Albert coats, starched bosoms with studs, neckties all made up, celluloid collars and detachable cuffs, very fancy cuff buttons, and massive watch chains.

The young people then had to make their own good times. They gave amateur theatricals and melodramatic plays, light operas and vaudeville acts. Often exceptional talent was found among the actors and singers in the town. Singing groups were popular. Dancing was always enjoyed, so much so that people would sometimes ride five or six miles in open sleighs to attend these grand affairs. The waltz, schottische, polka, the lancers, and contra dances were the favorites.

Those were the happy days!

The latter part of this period saw the coming of electricity and the telephone, and what a blessing and comfort to the townspeople! Most important of all were the electric lights in the houses — no more filling of oil lamps, cleaning wicks and washing chimneys. As the years went on, many electrical devices appeared; refrigerators, irons, toasters, vacuum cleaners, and so on. Perhaps the best of all was the electric pump which brought running water to the kitchen sink — what a change from carrying the water from nearby streams, the “Old Oaken Bucket” at the sunken well, the pump outside, and the hand pump in the kitchen!

On February 15, 1898, the battleship “Maine” was blown up, which precipitated the Spanish-American war. In this war, as in others, Templeton was represented by valiant men.

In 1903, the Templeton Street Railway was established, connecting all parts of the town. Cars ran from Baldwinville through Otter River to East Templeton, Templeton Center, and on to Athol. In summer it was a great pleasure to ride in the open cars with the seats placed crosswise. This new means of transportation, and the telephones in the homes



brought residents throughout the town into closer relationship. The telephone was an especial advantage to the farmers in the outlying districts, even as it is today.

The two women's clubs in town were organized in 1899, one in Baldwinville and one in Templeton Center. The club at the Center was first known as the Wellington Club. In 1923, the name was changed to Templeton Woman's Club. These clubs have been and still are of great value to the cultural life of the town.

In 1900, Moses Richardson, a former resident, built a new inn (the present one) on the site of the old hotel. Ernest Maynard, born in Templeton and architect of Keith's Theatre in Boston, was chosen to plan the new building. It contained about fifty rooms, well furnished and comfortable.

This was an imposing edifice for our village, bringing a different atmosphere into the community. It is interesting to note that the guest rooms were decorated by F. Ketley, the man who decorated the Metropolitan Opera House in New York. People came from New York, Boston, and other cities and found a pleasant summer home. For some time Percival Blodgett, another of the town's prominent citizens, was proprietor of this hostelry; and his daughter, Grace Blodgett, acted as clerk. Miss Blodgett also served for many years as librarian of the Boynton Public Library besides giving valuable service in town affairs.

The places of business of former times were now almost entirely gone from Templeton Center. The furniture shop below the hill and the blacksmith shop were about all that remained. There were seen only the general store, postoffice, and residences. The picket fences around the houses were taken down, but the lawns were kept cut with the new invention, the lawn mower, and the gardens bloomed. Life went on in a more luxurious way than formerly because of the



coming of electricity, the telephone, the new inn, and many other improvements.

We now have the setting — the common with its ash, maple and elm trees, the two churches with their tall spires, the house with the pillars, the old brick house, the very modern Templeton Inn, and the trolley car winding its way over the main street by the common on its way to Athol.

During the summers of 1911-12-13 was maintained at the north end a vacation house for working girls from Boston, sponsored by the South End Settlement House in that city. The girls came in groups of ten, and each group remained two weeks.

Many of the village people helped to give them a good time. Guests from the inn sent in contributions of Abby Maynard's famous ice cream, neighbors sent in fresh vegetables, talented people helped with the entertainment.

The barn was their recreation room and there the girls took part in impromptu charades, and village people joined them in singing groups. Rev. William F. Skerrye, the minister of the First Parish, gave illustrated lantern talks, and Wallace Underwood, the town's artist, gave chalk talks. Several of the townspeople took the girls on trolley rides, picnics, and walks in the woods. One group took the trip to Mt. Monadnock; another group who could not tramp so far, went to Mt. Wachusett.

Each girl paid three dollars a week, and on that amount the house was run. At the end of the first year the amount of seven dollars was returned to the sponsor. Delia Damon, who for many years held the position of postmaster, was the cook. The girls loved her, for she not only prepared good things to eat, but was a musician — played the piano and sang and was ever ready to help with the good times in the barn. The coming of these working girls brought a new element

into the community and gave the natives an opportunity to know a different side of life.

Then in 1914, again a cloud appeared on the horizon — the disturbance in Europe and subsequently World War I, the greatest war in history up to that time, and the first to draw into its vortex nations of every continent. When we read in the papers of the assassination of the heir apparent to the throne of Austria, we little thought that a war would result and that our town would have a part in that great tragedy. But Templeton played its part, giving its full devotion. Again the marching of feet was heard on the common and our brave boys went off across the seas to fight hand in hand for liberty with the descendants of those who came to America to prevent that very liberty which our ancestors were trying to establish for themselves.

You know the story; we need not repeat it here — the heartaches and anxiety — how the women knitted sweaters and stockings and folded surgical dressings, first for the French Army and then for our own. Peace came at last, but at what a price! To commemorate the sacrifice and bravery of our boys of Templeton, a beautiful monument was erected on the common. John G. Hardy of Warwick, Rhode Island, was the sculptor. This statue is considered one of the finest erected in New England in memory of the war dead.

After this war fewer guests came to town for the summer and the famous inn, then known as the Landlords' Inn, closed its doors, and for a time life in the town became quieter and less eventful.

In 1901, the radio was born, and by 1920 it was in use in many homes; now hardly a house is without one. Motion picture houses were established in Gardner, and automobiles appeared one by one. All this meant a drastic change in entertainment. There was less desire to create amusements.

The automobile and other conveyances took people to movies in Gardner, while the less active ones sat in their chairs at home and listened to the radio.

Then in 1924, one of our residents, Mrs. Elizabeth L. Parkhurst, who was ever a faithful worker for home, church and town interests, had a vision. In the next chapter we will tell what materialized from her dream—the reorganization of the Historical Society of Templeton.

### IMPORTANT DATES

1883	Brick Store built in Otter River
1885	Templeton Grange established
1886	High School in Baldwinville
1888	Big Snowstorm
1888	Hosea F. Lane's History of Templeton published
1888	Old hotel burned
1890 to 1900	Gay Nineties period
1898	Spanish-American War
1899	Women's Clubs organized
1900	Present inn built
1903	Construction of Templeton Street Railway
1911 1912 1913	Vacation House for working girls
1914	World War I
1920	The radio
1924	Reorganization of the Historical Society



## CHAPTER V

# Reorganization of the Historical Society and

## Hopes For Tomorrow, 1924-1946

MRS. PARKHURST remembered that many years ago an Historical Society was formed by Hosea F. Lane, for the purpose of perpetuating the memory of our forefathers, by collecting articles of interest, which were placed in the upper story of the library building.

In the fall of 1924, she invited the townspeople to her home, and the society was reorganized, named and later incorporated as the Narragansett Historical Society of Templeton, Massachusetts. Mrs. Henry Kirke White was chosen president and has remained in that position to this day (1946). It was called Narragansett because that was Templeton's name at the time of its birth, as stated in the first chapter.

From its very beginning the society has prospered, bringing a new interest into the town. Every summer special attractions have been arranged, either lectures by noted people or costume parties.

Once an old-time service was given in the First Church;

all the people came dressed in Puritan costumes, the men sitting on one side and the women on the other.

At another time, the old houses were open for inspection and supper served in Mrs. White's grounds, to over 400 people. On still another occasion historical living pictures were presented with a dramatic portrayal of an old-time school.

The climactic event was a production of moving pictures, at the time of the Tercentenary celebration, in 1930. These pictures were produced by the late Charles H. Flood, whose summer home, then, was in Templeton. They represented the history of the town's events and customs from the beginning of its settlement to the time of this presentation.

The scenes were generally taken from locations in the town and the costumes were owned by Templeton residents. Mrs. Flood arranged and played a musical background for this production. It was a memorable occasion, and we still have the pictures.

One of the past residents, Mrs. Adelaide B. Howland, in her will, left a sum of money to be used either for the erection of a new building or for the restoration of an old one, in order to make a home for the Society.

In 1933, the property of the old brick store was purchased and the following year the building was restored. Charles Flood was chosen chairman of the building committee and through his untiring efforts and the cooperation of others on the committee, a wonderful rebirth of the old store was accomplished. The architect was Royal Barry Wills of Boston, and the builders were Columbus and Berg of Gardner.

At the time of the dedication of the building, October 1934, Lucius Greenwood gave a detailed account of the history of the store. This paper can be found in the Narragansett Historical Building. Now this building stands out as an attractive object to the traveler passing through the town.

The space back of the building during its restoration was used as a dumping ground for pieces of lumber, old bricks, and other refuse; and no sooner had this rubbish been removed than the president, Mrs. White, created a garden. As the years went by, it grew in beauty and development. For several summers, tea was served in this area of flowers and ferns on Saturday afternoons, by young girls dressed in Puritan costumes. The garden has been used for many purposes — story-telling to the children, for the Society's luncheons and other gatherings as well as wedding receptions.

During 1935, nearly 1000 people came to visit the building and its garden. Rev. Frederick Weis of Lancaster was chosen historian at the time of reorganization. In 1945, he presented to the Society two large volumes containing the genealogy of Templeton families from 1750 to 1850. This made a most valuable and generous contribution.

Tribute should be given in our story to Mrs. White for her faithful and painstaking work; her part in the reconstruction of the building; arranging the interior; creating the garden; planning entertainments; engaging lecturers and thus making a center where the people from various parts of the town come together and enjoy the fruits of their accomplished work. Were it not for Mrs. White and the inspiration of her mother, Mrs. Parkhurst, I doubt if we would now have this interesting institution.

Recognition should be given to the other officers of the Society who have faithfully served through the years.

More data concerning this organization will be found in the large scrap book compiled by Mrs. White, now in the Manuscript Room at the Historical Building.

In recent years, the young people of the town have found inspiration for good citizenship through the establishment of the Scout movement. The first troupe of Boy Scouts was or-



ganized in East Templeton in 1915 under the sponsorship of the Methodist Episcopal Church, while the first troupe of Girl Scouts was established in 1936. At a still later date, the younger girls were banded together as Brownies.

The pledges of these organizations stimulate patriotic loyalty, courage and bravery.

Mention should be made of the faithfulness of the leaders of the Scouts, and special acknowledgment given to Edith G. Hinds for devoted service as Commissioner, having completed ten years in this important work.

Also in 1916, the year the first troupe of Boys Scouts was formed in Templeton, Miss Grace Blodgett organized a group of Camp Fire Girls at the Center. Ten girls composed the group, with Miss Blodgett as Guardian and Miss Nellie Bryant as Assistant Guardian. Since the use of an Indian name was required by the national organization, the Templeton group chose the name Kenestro from Kenestro Brook in the southern part of the town, one of the few Indian names remaining after the town was incorporated.

Under Miss Blodgett's able leadership the Kenestro Camp Fire Girls were a distinct asset to the community. During World War I, the girls did their bit with war gardens and canning and in the relief drives. Records show that during its four years of existence, about thirty girls were included in the membership list. In 1920, Miss Blodgett was forced to relinquish the guardianship on account of illness in her family, and as a successor could not be found, the group disbanded.

When the Girl Scout troupe was organized, in 1936, a number of the former Camp Fire Girls and sponsors became a part of the new organization.

Other sources of good influence for the young people have been Mothercraft, sponsored by the Templeton Woman's

Club, and the 4-H Work, under the auspices of the Worcester County Extension.

In 1925, the electric cars were supplanted by buses, thus cutting off direct communication with the north part of the town and making it necessary to enter that area by the way of Gardner.

The Mohawk Trail Cut-off, Route 2, running through Templeton, was built in 1927, giving better accessibility to outlying towns.

And so during the years to 1938, because of interest in the historical society, new road construction, automobiles and other improvements, the townspeople were finding contentment and happiness.

They were looking forward to the restoration of other old buildings and landmarks.

They were enjoying the beautiful trees on the common and in the surrounding groves where many of the pines had stood sentinel for over two centuries. Tall trees were seen along the highway and at the lake resorts; one section, especially beautiful, was known as the cathedral pines. Whenever one traveled along the highway, the tall spires of the churches stood out against the sky, pointing heavenward.

Then in September, 1938, came the hurricane! It did its work with a mighty force. Beautiful elms and the cathedral and sentinel pines were uprooted. The spires on three churches went down, bridges were washed away and the poor little town devastated. Again, I am inserting one of my radio programs giving facts as I know them concerning this frightful experience followed by a program written by Kenneth Bourn entitled "After the Hurricane".

## THE HURRICANE — September, 1938

“Flung by a fitful gust, there beat  
Against the window a dash of rain;  
Steady as tramp of marching feet  
Strode on the hurricane”

—*Celia Thaxter*

The storm raged, the winds blew. From my house I had an extensive view of the surrounding country. As I looked out of the window, the whole world seemed to be engaged in a terrible battle. Trees swayed, touched each other, and went down. Telephone poles dropped, chimneys collapsed, and shingles flew in all directions. My house swayed like a ship at sea, electric wires and tree branches were pounding on the outside as if bound to destroy.

I went downstairs, for it seemed safer to be on the first floor, as I was alone. As I looked out of the window, I saw a man running across the field chasing a pig. What became of the frightened animal, no one knows, but the man blew home. Then I saw a large object fly through the air, narrowly escaping hitting one of my windows. It proved to be the cap from my neighbor's chimney.

The darkness came and flashlights and candles were put to use. Then followed a night of watching and waiting. In the morning my neighbor came with her coffee pot. She had no electricity and because she had no chimney she had no fire. So I made her morning coffee. After a while, the boy arrived with the milk. He had much to report. Hardly a house escaped some injury. Most of the elm trees were uprooted — some of them measured twenty feet in circumference.

The beautiful common was like a battle field. Three church spires were down. The Christopher Wren spire fell



on the roof and hung there, extending part way into the church.

In other sections of the town three bridges were down, houses were washed away, ponds overflowed, and dams were destroyed, thus cutting off all communication, and all around us the pine groves were gone. Just down the hill from the common the entire roof of a barn caved in, burying the cow. The owner went to the rescue. The creature seemed to be breathing, but try as hard as he could he could not remove the timbers. However, in the morning, the neighbors helped him and they pulled the debris away, and the cow got up, walked into the shed, and gave the usual amount of milk for the family. When the roof of that barn fell in, the cupola remained right side up and intact, the glass of the windows not even broken, and the little structure is now serving as the temporary home for the cow.

One of the neighbors who helped to rescue the buried cow went out in the height of the gale to do his milking, the barn being some distance from the house. He opened the door and went out. Fortunately he had a firm grip upon the pail handle for the wind took his arm and pail and sent them into the air high above his head and blew him with great force into the barn. He sat down upon the stool and began to milk. Windows blew in and glass flew in all directions, but the man went right on milking. Then came a violent crash, glass hit the cow, the cow jumped, upsetting the milk, and the man, after quieting the animal, went to the house with an empty pail.

Another barn collapsed, burying a woman's pet horse. The owner spent the night in great anxiety, but when the timbers were moved the next morning, the horse was as good as ever.

After the hurricane had abated, even though it was pitch

dark, one man felt called upon to go to his brother's house to see what had happened there. He stumbled against fallen trees, and walked around them, and was going along valiantly when suddenly he stopped and fell and found he was in the wake of an uprooted elm tree. The earth was like quicksand, and before he knew it, he was almost buried in the mire. He thought his last days had come, for he was alone in this wilderness of fallen trees. He reached up and grasped a root of the elm, which fortunately did not give way, and by pulling with all his might he managed to climb up on solid ground and work his way to safety. Did he return to his home? No, he went on to his brother's house and made his call, dripping mud as he went along.

In the north part of town is an old iron foundry, built over a hundred years ago, with a pond back of it and the Otter River flowing in front. The residents living in that locality, fearing a disaster, vacated their homes. Right at the height of the blow a boy was seen walking, on his way home. Just as he came to the foundry, the dam broke, the pond overflowed, and the road was a raging torrent.

The boy rushed to the nearest house, pushed open the door, closing it behind him, and ran up the stairs to the second floor. The waters rushed madly against the house, dividing their force on either side, bringing along fallen trees and broken timbers. This water was eight feet deep in the street, and flowed as wide as Niagara.

All the village people came out with rope and ladders to go to the rescue if the house went down. The boy went to the window and waved to the men outside, then he disappeared, and presently returned eating an apple, while he watched the oncoming stream. But the house stood, the waters subsided, and the boy went home though he had to be ferried across the newly made river.

As the waters rushed madly through the streets carrying large objects in their wake, tall trees were seen riding along perfectly erect, some of them twenty feet high.

Farther along the Otter River, in the industrial part of the town, the flood the day before had washed away the bridge which connected the two sections of the village, and the only way to cross the river was over a suspension railroad bridge which also extended across the roadway. This is a trestle structure over seventy feet high and dangerous crossing at any time. A man who lives four miles away parked his car the morning of the hurricane near the bridge, walked across it and went to work. The day was over, the winds raged, and the man started for home. When he reached the high bridge he found two other men ready to cross at the same time, one with a supply of groceries under his arm. They found it impossible to stand erect; the only way they could go was to crawl on their knees and clutch the rails with both hands. This they did, making slow and difficult progress. The man with the groceries had to give up his supplies and let them drop below.

Then came a violent gale. The man in the middle lost his right hand grip and was partly blown over the side. The man in front grabbed his arm, the man behind grabbed his leg, and together they pulled him up between the rails. At last the bridge was crossed. Our man got into his car and started on his four-mile ride. To the right and left trees and poles went down. A huge pine tree fell across the roadway just after he had passed that point. He reached his home in safety, but terribly exhausted. He put up his car, and while crossing the yard the chimney on the house blew down. The falling bricks hit him, fortunately not on the head, but on his arm. He was thankful to be alive.

One of our good housekeepers, having a washing out on



the line, said to her sister: "It is blowing so hard I must go out and take in the clothes." "No, you don't," said the sister, "You stay in the house." "But I must take in Frank's shirt," said the woman. "No matter if Frank never has a shirt," said the sister, "if you value your life, stay in the house." The woman obeyed, and the shirt remained on the line.

This incident reminded me of a poem by Oliver Wendell Holmes, which I feel confident refers to the big blow of 1815, which swept through this section of the country and did great damage. It is entitled "The September Gale".

I'm not a chicken: I have seen  
Full many a chill September  
And though I was a youngster then,  
That gale I well remember;  
It chanced to be our washing day,  
And all our things were drying;  
The storm came roaring through the lines,  
And set them all a-flying;  
I saw the shirts and petticoats  
Go riding off like witches;  
I lost, ah! bitterly I wept, —  
I lost my Sunday breeches!  
I saw them straddling through the air,  
Alas, too late to win them;  
I saw them chase the clouds, as if  
The devil had been in them;  
They were my darlings and my pride,  
My boyhood's only riches —  
"Farewell, farewell" I faintly cried —  
"My breeches! Oh, my breeches!"

After the tempest, when morning came, we took count of stock of our resources. Some had two chimneys, some had

one, and some had none. Several did their cooking by the open fireplace. We found candles, lamps and old discarded oil stoves. The iron flatirons came back to use, and the hand pump at the kitchen sink.

After the excitement had abated, all went to work to repair damages. Fortunately, we have in our midst a carpenter, mason, steeple jack, and tree men, and they did heroic work.

How did this affect the elderly people? It saddened them greatly, for they had lived from childhood with these trees and steeples. But they went to work with all the rest to salvage the wreckage. One man over eighty whose yard was strewn with fallen trees went to work with his saw.

One woman who could not saw wood, but who could drive a car, knowing that it was necessary to reach a man who lived only three miles away, made a detour of twenty-five miles over some rocky roads, found the man, returned over the same route, and then drove four miles to find another man who lived just across the river from the first one. A few who could spare a little money and could not work gave to the church that had lost its beautiful spire.

One man said: "Silver and gold have I none, but I will give my time and clean up the wreckage around the church and carefully save the parts of the spire." When he was doing this, he pointed out the marvelous workmanship, the hand-hewn beams and wrought iron.

You will be glad to know that the clock goes on and strikes the hour, the bell tolls, and the organ peals forth its rich music. A parish meeting was held soon after the disaster and for the first time in our memory, the room was lighted by candlelight, except for one oil lamp.

## AFTER THE HURRICANE

September, 1938

Higglety, pigglety, my black hen  
Will never be the same again,  
Because of our inclement weather,  
She scarcely boasts a single feather,  
But still must roost on fallen trees —  
What price September's tropic breeze!

—*Kenneth Bourn*

The hurricane now seems to be a thing of the past, and what a task it has been to clear away the wreckage left in its wake. September twenty-second was a beautiful day, forerunner of weeks of perfect Indian Summer, ideal for out-of-door work. But what a sight met our eyes that morning!

At my tiny farm, we were nearly hidden from sight by great limbs tossed in a tangle of branches from the street to the porch; poles and wires looking for all the world like a first lesson in knitting by some mad giant. Where to begin the business of living amid such a tangle was a problem indeed, yet a farm has first principles as rigid as the actors' creed, "The show must go on!" The milk must be delivered and the animals fed.

But even with this goal established the details of procedure are far from clear. Fortunately, the barn still stood, but the stable was a hash of broken glass and sash, drenched hay and shattered leaves. The cows stood still in bewilderment at the sight of the friendly sun after such a night of terror. The milking done, they went out to pasture where they might, as no fences were left intact.

Now for the hens — one flock still had a house, though roofless, but the second flock was scattered about the wreckage of their ruined home. Poor Gloria, the family pig, was sunning herself in what was left of a battery of nests from the



hen house. "Gloria in excelsior", if you will forgive the pun. The milk bottled and delivered, the question of where to start was soon settled at the breakfast table. With no power there could be nothing cooked on the electric range. With no chimney, the coal range could not be used. Cooking in the fireplace, while cheap with all the fuel at hand, is by no means as satisfactory as the pioneer stories lead us to believe. The chimney must be built first, which meant a trip to town for supplies. Armed with axes and a saw the trip was started. Men were everywhere, young and old, even the crippled, lame and halt were doing what they could to clear the streets. The Highway Department, aided by the W. P. A. workers and volunteers had a way cleared for single-line traffic in a remarkably short time, for few travelers were abroad.

For five miles on Route 2 there was but one gas station doing business; the enterprising owner had installed his old kitchen pump and was pumping gas into a gallon measure. The lumber yard, when finally reached, had already exhausted its supply of bricks and cement, but two sacks of cement and a little lime were secured from the attendant. This man dealt with a hoard of frantic customers as though a hurricane were a daily occurrence. One businessman rushed up to him and demanded two hundred sacks of brick cement at once; the whole top of his factory was blown off! "Well", remarked the attendant, "I was just telling this gentleman we didn't have **two** sacks and we ain't got two hundred sacks either, but you just sit down a minute and we'll get you something."

While the lime was slaking, the tedious task of carrying bricks began. What a view from the top of the house! Next door a neighbor was shingling his roof; on the other side firemen were struggling to extricate a cow from a high barn that had collapsed. Trucks were carrying load after load of debris from the streets and common that had been cleared

up by the W.P.A. workers. There were no shovel leaners among them.

In a few days the town was filled with telephone and electric light men from New York and the Middle West, who worked from dawn to dark setting poles and stringing miles of new wire. So many lines had been destroyed that even with extra helpers no lights were in the houses for over eighteen days. The telephone came back into service after twenty-five days, much to the relief of the housewives who were weeks behind with their gossip, and so much to talk about! It was just a month before the street lights were turned on again. Schools had been started after ten days of enforced vacation, due largely to our local committee woman; she is also town accountant, indispensable in town affairs; she gets things done.

The slate roof of the school house was patched. The chimneys were blown off and there were no lights or water in the buildings, but the school started. Fortunately the weather was warm enough to make fires unnecessary.

With the farm temporarily patched up after a few days, we were able to help out our less fortunate neighbors.

Not far from us, in a splendid old house, live three sisters. Their place was like the rest; shingles off, doors and shutters gone, the roof torn from the barn, fences down, trees uprooted and broken. After getting an estimate of the amount of material required, the eldest sister drove to Athol, some ten miles west, for supplies. The town had been badly flooded and was still under guard to keep people out of the streets who were not on urgent business. The shingle dealers were swamped with customers, but she got into town and came out with thirteen squares of roofing and a truck load of roof boards and shingles and nails.

Then the three sisters supervised the repairs to their home



and also found time to attend the meeting held for the discussion of repairs to the Church, to go to the meeting of the Women's Club and to pick up and preserve the pears that had been hurled from the trees by the winds. Despite the damage done to their home, the three kept as cheerful as crickets with their delightful sense of humor unimpaired.

Much of our town was covered in pre-hurricane days with a heavy growth of pine and to these perhaps the damage was greater than to any other single thing. At our lake resort, some three miles west of town, there used to stand a growth of pines that must have been more than two centuries old; some of them were more than two feet in diameter, towering a hundred feet in the air. All of these beautiful trees were completely destroyed, and in falling they carried down the under-growth and many of the cottages lining the lake shore. Almost nothing has been done in any of the woods, as all the labor in town has been occupied in clearing streets and repairing houses.

What can be done to salvage the timber is still a question. The crop of years coming on the market at once would render the pine worth less than the expense of cutting even if the labor to salvage the good logs were available. Our farm had but a single acre of large pines, but they surrounded a rocky glen that made a perfect picnic grove. Never again will we see it as it was a few weeks ago, but by planting new trees, it still will remain a delightful spot for the years ahead.

Next to our lot stood many acres of pine, which for years had been tended as carefully as an orchard by the father of the present owner. Only last summer she had been approached by a lumber man who wished to purchase the pine, but it had been so long in her family, and her father had loved the trees so much, she was reluctant to sell at any price. Now practically all those splendid trees are gone, but at least she



has the satisfaction of knowing that they were not destroyed at her bidding.

Now that the worst is over, most of us still find that we can look upon our possessions and find them good. Now that we have had weeks of living as we did half a century ago, we can better appreciate the blessings that we enjoy from day to day without thought.

Our electric clocks now tell the time; the radio brings the world news to our fireside; our oil burners again keep us warm without effort on our part; we say, "Let there be light!" and there is light; water again gushes forth at the turn of the knob; our washing machines and the dozen other contrivances that would have been miracles only a few years ago now take up their tasks to make our lives easier.

If the hurricane has made us more conscious of our present aids and comforts, then perhaps it was not in vain after all. The fortitude shown by every one, the help so readily extended by neighbors and friends and by perfect strangers, must linger in our memory; a shining example of the essential goodness of men and a source of courage as long as we live.

\* \* \* \* \*

As Kenneth Bourn has related, the townspeople went to work to salvage and reconstruct. All this experience brought the people in the town closer together. We learned that the roots of our lives were fastened firmer than we realized in our home town and like the sturdy ash and maple, we still stand and have much cause for thanksgiving.

In 1939, the two churches across the common were federated.

In 1940, the spire on the First Parish (Unitarian) Church was restored. William Roger Greeley of Boston was the architect, and the work was done by W. M. Bogart Co., Charlestown, Mass. Thanks to Robert Bourn, who carefully

picked up and preserved the fragments of the spire, it was possible to erect a perfect duplicate. Thus again the spire stands out as a landmark on the horizon.

In 1940, after the flood and hurricane, the state thought best to build the Birch Hill Dam to prevent more disaster. Consequently the north part of the town was much disturbed, houses taken down, the buildings of two business firms removed and picnic spots and pleasure grounds demolished. With the advent of World War II, work on this project ceased. Now the construction work is taken up again, and we hope its completion will prevent more floods.

It was in the year 1940 also that the story of Templeton was told over the air from radio Station WHDH, Boston.

In 1941, Rev. George Ackerly was recognized as minister of the Federated Church. He was an exceptional organizer and did much to interest the young people. He established the Summer Vacation School which still continues and gives instruction to local children.

One summer a condensed history of the town was given to the entire school of sixty children in the form of radio broadcasts called "Exploring the Past of Templeton". One of the boys, Richard Wheaton, acted as announcer. From time to time, the children took part in the broadcasts, by answering questions or singing hymns or songs appropriate to the various chapters. Sometimes guest speakers added to the program. After the broadcast, several of the children made pictorial scrap books, illustrating the various stages of history.

In looking over the town records, it will be found that nearly all of the early settlers came from England. But with improved transportation across the ocean and across the continent, people came from other countries to settle in the new world, and many of them came to live in Templeton. Besides the English we have eight different countries represented —

Ireland, Sweden, Finland, Poland, Holland, Denmark, France and Italy.

The mingling of these people with the descendants of the first settlers should help to bring about a better understanding of world problems. In many cases these new residents have proved to be good citizens, and some hold responsible positions.

Then, during the years 1939-1945, came World War II, beyond a doubt the greatest war in the history of the world.

Again Templeton did its part; 550 men and women served in the war, and 18 gave their lives to this great cause, that all countries might sing

“My country tis of thee  
Sweet land of liberty”

Forever we shall be proud of the bravery and sacrifice of those who served in this war.

The women at home occupied their time in making garments, knitting sweaters, helmets, gloves and socks and folding surgical dressings. Also, they were constantly writing letters and sending useful and needed articles to those in service.

In Otter River was established an airplane observation post and many of the townspeople gave their services in three-hour relays, watching and reporting the passing of the planes, throughout the twenty-four hours.

Then came the rationing of meat, cheese, butter, canned goods and shoes, which meant problems for the housewife. The rationing of gasoline made transportation another problem.

But these inconveniences were willingly met. Men and women went to work to make their gardens grow and canned the produce for winter consumption. We patched our garments, wore old models throughout the war and cheerfully gave up nylon stockings.



V E Day came May 8, 1945, and V J Day, September 2, 1945. On both of these days services of thanksgiving were held in the churches. The end of war, but not yet the coming of peace.

Another conflict appeared, between capital and labor. Strikes and more strikes, the danger of the atom bomb and unrest and disturbance in countries all over the world.

But we as citizens must use our influence by voting for the best people to represent us and in the next decade may there be peace and prosperity for all.

Since the war there has been vast improvement in automobiles, airplanes and other inventions. What will this mean to our town? With the new high-power gas we may drive to Boston in half an hour. We may have breakfast in our home, lunch in California, return for dinner in Chicago and supper at home again.

### NEW BUSINESS IN TEMPLETON CENTER.

As has been stated, in the early days Templeton Common was a thriving business center, but with the coming of the railroad in the north part of the town, many of these industries disappeared and the village became almost entirely residential.

But now we find something of a reappearance of activities. The automobile has made a garage and repair shop a necessity, which Alton Ware ably operates. A blacksmith shop now, as in days gone by, still finds its usefulness and is owned and operated by Samuel Symons. In 1945, Adams Brothers, opened up a printing shop in the barn adjoining the house formerly owned and occupied by Mary W. Stone and now owned by Orville Adams, one of the members of the firm. Francis Ellis, who lives in the Chamberlin house with Nestor Maki and Son, is doing excellent work in photography.

Roswell Johnson, an able electrician, has established a profitable business at his home.

Mrs. Dora Winch, Mrs. Florence Winch and Mary Winch produce beautiful designs in the old art of weaving.

In the old Hadley house, Richard LeMieur restores antique furniture. Farther along the Athol Road, Philip Swanson produces small pieces of woodwork.

There are in the village expert masons and carpenters. Leo Lund is specializing in hothouse vegetables. Johnson's Cider Mill on the Otter River Road produces most excellent cider.

In Brooksvillage, Lester Pease does an extensive business for the market and local trade in growing apples.

Many raise vegetables, chickens, and rabbits, all of which find ready market.

Ernest Kendall, Marcia Reed and Mabel Paige all produce and sell gorgeous gladioli.

At Baptist Common, on the road leading to the old Underwood house, John Kosakowaki and Walter Dabuliewicz are doing small wood turning, and employ five people. They are known as Templeton Manufacturing Co., and make children's chairs, rockers, bassinets and spindles and frames for upholstered furniture.

Templeton has a long list of people who were educated in town and through church and school training were equipped to go out into the world and became great influences for good. It is impossible to recall them all, but some of the outstanding names should be mentioned.

According to the record found in the Dictionary of American Biography, between 1760-1840, Templeton, in proportion to its population, produced more people of note than any other town in Massachusetts, and probably in the entire country. Following is the list of names:

Stephen P. Andrews 1812 — reformer and philosopher,  
Sylvanus Sawyer 1822 — inventor,  
George Cheney Shattuck 1783 — physician,

Asa Turner 1799 — clergyman and educator,  
Jonathan Baldwin Turner 1825 — teacher,  
William M. Goodrich 1777 — organ builder,  
Sarah Goodrich 1788—miniature painter,  
Rev. William Goodell D. D. 1792 — missionary,  
Leonard A. Jones 1832 — judge,  
Charles Knowlton 1800 — physician and philosopher.

In 1894, the Templeton High School celebrated its 38th anniversary and at that time many prominent people were mentioned by Hosea Lane, the high school teacher. Some of these were: Prof. George Alden, who at that time had charge of the department of mechanical engineering at the Worcester Polytechnic Institute, also John Boynton, one of the founders of that same institution; Prof. Lucas Baker, an artist of special reputation, for many years instructor in the Art Institute in New York City; Charles W. Stone, the owner and head of one of the best known private schools for boys in New England; William Kirchner, professor of drawing in the University of Minnesota; John Leahey, professor at Holy Cross College in Worcester; H. Edwin Hawkes, for many years Dean of Columbia College; Edmund Hudson, connected with the News Press of the Boston Herald; Judge Partridge and Judge Pierce, prominent lawyers of Boston and Worcester; Newton Bugbee, at one time candidate for Governor of New Jersey; Ernest Maynard, the architect of Keith's Theatre in Boston; Kendall Saunders, a New York artist of some note, and Michael Kelly, a famous ball player who became the manager of the Minneapolis Team.

Prominent in business were: W. M. L. Shearer, at one time the principal owner and manager of Paine's Furniture Company of Boston; Moses Richardson (donor of the inn) for many years engaged in the wool business in Boston; George Fuller of the great construction company of that name be-



came a most successful builder and contractor. That company invented frames of steel with iron girders, erecting what are called "sky scrapers". The Flatiron Building in New York City was the first enormous structure erected by this firm.

Many women became prominent teachers: Henrietta Sawyer, the daughter of one of the leading families was for over twenty years, at the head of a preparatory school for girls in St. Louis; Hattie Twichell, a pioneer educator of kindergarten in Springfield and Rosetha Norcross, for many years a missionary in Turkey.

And so all over the world, Templeton people have been doing valiant work in many fields.

Throughout this story we have mentioned some of the people who have contributed to the town's welfare and culture: the ministers and their wives, the doctors, the teachers and business men. From the very beginning of the town's settlement, there have been many whose names seldom appeared in the newspapers, but who, as Mr. Lane said in his address, were living brave and helpful lives and exerting greater influences than perhaps they realized. The farmers and their wives, for example, who have trained sons and daughters into intelligent, honest, and patriotic citizens. And then the maiden aunt who has been a perpetual source of comfort and helpfulness to her many relatives and friends.

I think we have illustrated that Templeton has produced people of note and distinction and that the homely influences of this country town have produced some of the finest citizens of the world.

As it has been in the past, I am confident it will be in the future, for with the example of present forward-looking citizens, the town's selectmen, teachers, ministers, government leaders and businessmen, it will be possible for the young people to carry on with courage.

The historian of the future may be able to record startling achievements. Who knows, through airplanes and radar, a Templeton boy may be the first to communicate with the planet Mars!

### IMPORTANT DATES

1924		The Historical Society reorganized and named Narragansett Historical Society
1925	}	Special celebrations given by Narragansett Historical Society
to		
1938		
1926		Buses supplant the electric cars
1927		State highway built — Route 2
1932		Mrs. Adelaide B. Howland's bequest to the Narragansett Historical Society
1933		Old brick store restored
1936		Girl Scouts organized
1938		Hurricane
1939		Two churches in Templeton Center federated
1940		Steeple on Unitarian Church restored
1941		Rev. George Ackerly recognized as Minister of the Federated Church
1939	}	World War II
to		
1945		
1946		New business in Templeton Center

# BROOKSVILLAGE

by

LIZZIE E. HADLEY



## BROOKSVILLAGE

ARE you ready for a ride? Dolly is hitched to the top buggy and waiting patiently at the door, so let's be off — across the Common, past the old town hall and Revolutionary cemetery, down the Brooksvillage road, now Athol road, for our two-mile ride to Brooksvillage, clustered among the trees on the opposite ridge, with the white spire of the Phillipston church in the background.

Down the hill we jog, past the "farm without a weed" of Charles May; past the Paul Kendall place — now the home of Charles Rich — where in early days a double room could be made for dancing parties by unhooking separating doors and folding back at will; on to the Sibley house where a dancing room could be made upstairs by hinging the doors upward overhead, while people gathered in the wainscotted fireplace rooms downstairs for other entertainment and refreshments. Across the way, on a knoll, was the Goodrich place — the Goodrich who built the first church organ in the First Parish Church. Here the downstairs double rooms could be thrown into one big room by opening large folding doors in the ordinary way. Later this house was owned and occupied by the Lucien N. Hadley family for forty-seven years. These were some of the oldest houses in Templeton.

Again we jog on to the lower part of the valley where we pause to view the Hawkes pond or Bourn and Brooks pond --

later Bourn-Hadley pond — and the sawmill where later sprang up a factory which made chamber furniture.

Now begins the uphill climb, past the Pine Grove Cemetery with its glades and hollows of beautiful old-growth pine, later laid waste by a fierce hurricane, though little damage was done there otherwise. Our direction now turns to the left, as the right-hand road seems little used, except by travelers to outlying farms. The nearest of these is the Riley home — the name which originated the Riley Switch of later electric days. Up a steep pitch, called Gravel Hill, we go through dense woods which some years kept the roads icy late into spring.

A resting place is just beyond, at the foot of the Long Hill. Here we listen to the fall of water over the dam from Mosquito Pond on the right and watch its progress over the meadow at our left and maybe hear the buzz of a sawmill out of sight in the woods. This is known as Bourn's Mill or Hadley's Mill. Many raspberries were picked nearby on old cut-off timber lots — and many hornets encountered!

In imagination we smell the fragrant Mayflower, the Trailing Arbutus, which grows on the right under the pines, and recall the snakes sunning there as we pushed aside the leaves in our search for the dainty pink blossoms. We also recall the cranberries to be picked on the farther banks of the pond when the water was low in the fall.

It is time to move on — past the Marvin Miles place on the left — and begin the steady climb to the steepest part of the Long Hill, where Dolly must get a breath and where, in winter, the coasters almost lose their breath, as they rush down on double runners to Gravel Hill and over to catch a ride back with the logging teams.

On the left are blueberry bushes in a big pasture from which many ten-quart pails of berries have been gathered by the village children for many years and used for pies and winter

canning. Pastures were not posted, "No Trespassing", for there seemed to be enough for all.

On we go, steadily upward to a hollow in the hill for our next rest, near a house where Cyrus Cheney and his wife, Nancy, come out in front to see what is going on, as Peter Cheney, the little black dog keeps up his furious barking, caused by the pestering of the school children. On our right, in another pasture, the children used to play a game seeing who could go longest walking on stones without touching ground, as the stones left by the glacier were more numerous than plums in a pudding. Down over the hill were the June Pink bushes, the sweet pink azaleas which shed their fragrance abroad every spring, and very large chestnut trees in the woods which gave cherished food to children as well as squirrels in the fall.

At last, we reach the top of the Long Hill and enter Brooksvillage, a prosperous, thriving village in the western part of the town of Templeton.

We stop under the Big Elm which forms a center and stands at the divergence of the five roads of the village, forming the Milestone for the many who have gone away and hold it in memory dear. Longfellow said in "The Golden Milestone":

"Each man's chimney is his Golden Milestone,  
Is the central point, from which he measures  
Every distance  
Through the gateways of the world around him.  
In his farthest wanderings still he sees it;  
Hears the talking flame, the answering night wind  
As he heard them  
When he sat with those who were but are not.

We may build more splendid habitations,  
Fill our rooms with paintings and with sculptures,  
But we cannot  
Buy with gold the old associations."



Many a wayfarer gone from the village recalls this Big Elm and cherishes an old-time picture of it as a part of early life and old associations.

Over the head of Dolly goes the feed bag, with its ration of oats which she enjoys and which will keep her quiet and contented, while we munch our sandwiches, viewing the village meanwhile and recalling various people at their duties.

On our left, at the edge of the village, just in sight, is District No. 7 schoolhouse, on the South Road leading to Golden Village, an industrial part of Phillipston, and on to Barre. A notice on the schoolhouse points in that direction, reading "Barre, ten miles". A crossroad, leading to the old Petersham road, with its outlying farms, by Skunk's Misery, helps enclose the schoolhouse. From these farms came pupils to District No. 7—Ella Leland, Carrie Matthews, the Robinsons, the Glasheens, Esther, Elisha, Emma and Moses Leland, children of Charles Leland, Ella Roper, Inez and Orrin Miles and others. Children would race out at recess or noon-time, yelling, "Three old cat, my first bat" or "Hill Dill come over the hill", to gain their first positions.

In the old days, we might hear a great clatter on the hill from the east, when the Boston stage coach reaches the top and stops with a flourish at Brooks Tavern on the right, for refreshment for the travelers and a change of horses or rest and food for them in the large barn and stables attached to the rambling tavern.

Opposite the tavern stood the Bowker Boot Shop where the men and boys of the village and from nearby farms worked each day. Out they come for the noonday meal, hurrying home or out under the Big Elm to eat their lunches. A few seek the tavern.

Lunch quickly eaten, they indulge in a ball game, cards, jokes or politics during the rest of the noon hour. Almost a

perfect diamond is in the center of the village, and many a ball game is played there, with spectators sitting or reclining on the slope under the Elm, nature's amphitheater. Here each night would gather men and boys for sport and relaxation or to discuss what Congress ought to do! During the day, little girls with their dolls and toys would gather under the Big Elm to play house, being within call of their homes. Older children would meet with pails to decide where to go for blueberries or which field had the best wild strawberries. Woe to the boys caught in the tall grass where the strawberries were most plentiful and sweetest, or in the turnip field, pulling turnips to eat raw in the fall!

Just across from the baseball diamond was a large field with a face-wall, lined with fruit trees — black and red cherries and apples. Up the hill from this field was the large house of Warren Bowker on the Phillipston road. Mr. Bowker was the owner of the boot shop. Sometimes the village was called Bowkerville; but Brooksvillage it became, and it is still known by that name.

The nooning is over, back hurry the workers to the shop, and out come the passengers from the Brooks Tavern to regain their seats in the coach which has been overhauled and fresh horses hitched to it by the stablemen. Now off it starts with a clatter of harness and whir of whips, amid shouts of hurried good-byes. Up the center and main street of the village it rumbles on, to the woods at the end which soon hide it from view; and only a faint rumbling is heard as it passes the Gilbert and James Carruth farms down the next hill on its way to Athol and Brattleboro. Just a remembrance remains of busy stagecoach days; the stops at the taverns at East Templeton and Templeton on the way to Brooks Tavern at Brooksvillage; for the steam engine drowned its clatter, as the railroads became the main channel of communication over



the land; and the Ware River Railroad, not far away, became a reality. The stagecoach was a thing of the past.

John Brooks, owner of the tavern, built a brick house on the main street, with long ells, big barns and out-buildings of a big farm. Here he took his wife, Sarah Spear Brooks, and family — Isaac, Lucy, Mary Ann, John and Julia — to live. John Brooks later sold the tavern to Isaac Bourn, who had married Mary Ann Brooks, who later became my grandmother. Their children were Jeanette, Sarah and George Winthrop Bourn.

Isaac Bourn used the big barns for his many horses, kept for lumbering and for taking the logs to the sawmills. He lodged and fed many teamsters and carried on his farm lands, producing hay for the animals and fruits and vegetables for the family. Blue Pearmain, Greenings, Pound Sweets, Porters and Minister apples, with pears and plums, were especially delicious; and Northern Spies, Baldwins and Russets would last all winter in the cool cellar. About twenty families in the village sent workers to the boot shop of Warren Bowker and on logging business for Isaac Bourn.

The North Road furnished pupils for District No. 7. Mr. Brigham, farthest away, sent his son, James, and Otis Starkey, a ward. Eugene, Clara and William D. Rice came from the old Luke Brooks farm, owned by a relative of the village Brookses; Howes and Olivers came also. Lysander Whitcomb, brother of Mrs. David Spear, sent his family to the village school — Angelo, Malora, Elphine and Abbie Zurilla Whitcomb. Later, Abbie Whitcomb taught school in the village for many years. She was the teacher of my sister, Mary Ann Hadley, throughout the latter's district school days. Earlier, she had sent a class of one boy and four girls to the center, to take a day's examination before three august school committee members — Percival Blodgett, Asa Hosmer, Fran-



cis Leland — in Colburn's Arithmetic and all subjects, both oral and written, for admission to the Templeton High School. That was when I was admitted and later became a pupil of Hosea F. Lane, as did my mother before me and most of my brothers and sisters afterward.

One day the boot shop took fire and burned to the ground and all the storehouses with it. Also, the David Spear house at the top of the hill nearby, was burned; and nothing but cellar holes covered with brush remain to show where the buildings once were. The local fire hand-engine was manned by citizens and shop-workers who worked with zeal, but nothing could be saved. My mother, then Jeanette Bourn, and John Brooks, Junior's mother, then Ann Richardson Howe, teacher of the village school, helped in pumping and carrying water for the men. Mary and Lucy Baker's mother, then Ella Leland, was one of the first to carry the news of the fire to the center.

Warren Bowker was away from home at the time of the shop fire. He didn't rebuild and soon left the village never to return, but suspicion remained behind.

Sardis Fairbanks, with his wife, Caroline Brooks Fairbanks, a relative of John Brooks, bought and came to live on the Bowker place; and produce from his farm took prizes at the agricultural fairs in Athol for many years, both apples and vegetables. Mrs. Fairbanks took flowers and wreaths made of hair or wax to exhibit. It might be of interest to add here that a beautiful hair wreath, made by Mrs. Fairbanks, now hangs on the walls of the ladies' parlor of the Trinitarian Church. In a frame, under glass, measuring 19"x15", the wreath is in the form of a crescent, with a small cross in the center. It is made entirely of the hair of those who regularly attended church fifty years ago. This wreath was presented to the pastor, Reverend Lewis Sabin, D. D., and shortly after

his death went to Mrs. Mary J. Work, who has had it for the past twenty-five years.

This hair wreath is a beautiful specimen of an art which has now passed into oblivion. Each leaf or flower is made of the hair of some one person—or in some instances hair from the heads of an entire family. Mrs. Work presented the wreath to the Trinitarian Society as a memorial to those early members. One of the most conspicuous flowers is composed of the hair of Dr. Lewis Sabin; and another of the hair of Mrs. Lucy Richardson, mother of Moses Richardson, donor of the Templeton Inn.

Kate Fairbanks (Nichols), mother of Edith Nichols Stevens, attended District No. 7 school, as did also her brothers and sisters, Edgar, Webster, Eugene, Emma, Jennie and May.

The Roper place, a short distance beyond the schoolhouse, at the left, was owned by Ephraim Roper, a stone cutter. At times, he had apprentices to learn the work. One of these, of whom he did not approve, fell in love with his daughter, Ella, and wished to marry her; but the father would not allow it. In a large boulder in the field facing the front of the house, Mr. Roper had cut a seat. The young man had cut above the seat these words, "In God we trust". The letters were kept clean and visible by Inez Miles (afterward Chute) who lived there later; "we trust" is still there.

Mr. Roper sold his fifty-acre farm to Vernon Miles whose wife, Susan Bourn Miles, was sister to Isaac Bourn. Mr. Roper moved to a house in the village, opposite the brick house, where he had a little repair shop of interest to the children. I have in my possession a cradle he made for my doll. He was lame, and his wife was crippled; but she had a fine flower garden with the sweetest pinks I ever knew.

David Spear, son of Sarah Spear Brooks, moved his family to the house at the right of the Big Elm, after fire destroyed



their home. His children, Helen, Ned, Francis, Bert, Emma and Ella, attended the village school, as did Stella Sprague, who later lived with them. For years, the Spears took charge of the village mail for people who paid to have their mail left there, as the Phillipston mail had to be taken by team from Templeton Center. It was brought to Templeton by coach from Gardner. Spears and Spragues remained there until the people of the village began to change and move away. Then they, too, moved to the center, with George W. Bourn and Mary Sprague, his wife — father and mother of Theodore and Winthrop Bourn and Helen Bourn Hawkes.

We think of many families, as we gaze around the village. Jason Mixter, an agent for gummers to clean machines, lived in a flat-roofed house at the left; Osgoods at the corner; Youngs, Deans, Fairbanks, Beamans and Wrights on the Phillipston road; Ropers, Jillsons, Aikens, Blandings, Gilbert and James Carruth on Athol road; and Partridges, Brookses, Spears, Hadleys and Bourns back to the center; Hadleys in the small house next the brick house.

Now came a period of local industries. John Brooks, the son, who now ran the farm at the brick house — with its ells, big barns and outbuildings — raised cattle, pigs, poultry and dairy cows. Often creatures were butchered at the big front doors of the barn — his own or those of the neighboring farms. He had rooms where large pieces of dried beef were hung to freeze for winter use.

My father often had a quarter of beef to freeze and keep in a cold place in a barrel through the winter, to be fried or roasted at will. Fat pork was salted in brine, and hams were pickled and used when needed. Many housekeepers, my mother among them, did this work for family use. They made lard and sausages from other parts of the animal; and



many thought the "crackle" a dainty part of a meal. Later, butchers' carts peddled all kinds of meat from house to house.

From the back hay-doors of the Big Barn in winter, children slid on the crust over the fields; passed the shiner box where bait was kept for fishing through the ice; slipped over the walls to the North Road and beyond on their swift double runners or single bob sleds — a happy sight.

In the Bourn or Brooks farm, after haying, a big threshing machine was set up to thresh the oats or other grains. It was fascinating to see the work horse steadily walking, walking on the rollers, never getting ahead; yet the oats spilling out of the hopper and the dust flying about showed that progress was made. Lesser farmers often used a flail to thresh their beans on the barn floor, as well as grain.

Later on, husking bees were held in the big barns at different times and places, to husk corn for the bins, chests and mills to be ground into meal for the plodding oxen that drew the hay and broke out drifted roads in winter. It took two days to get to town through the drifts of the blizzard of 1888, using many oxen and men to do so.

"Many hands make light work" when fun accompanies the husking; and the same red ears are found several times by the youths present! After refreshments of doughnuts, apples and cider, the laughing group trooped home.

In the fall, herbs were gathered from garden and field; sage for Thanksgiving dinner; wormwood for medicine; thoroughwort to be made into boneset tea for a spring tonic.

Everybody was glad to see the tin cart make its rounds in the spring, so as to get a new broom or some cherished tin piece, payment being made with rags saved for the purpose.

In the spring, the bulkhead of our cellar was opened, and lye was leached from the barrel of wood ashes saved from the winter fireplaces or stoves. The lye was mixed with masses of

grease and made into soft soap of a rich amber color. I can recall letting it run through my fingers as I took some out of the dark-colored soap barrel to put into the wash boiler or the dishpan. Only occasionally did one make hard soap.

Drawing in rugs was another home industry for many. I recall a large collie on one home-hooked rug in a boy's bedroom for many years. Some women preferred braided rugs or patchwork quilts. Still another industry carried on in the home was candle-making. The collected tallow was put into molds or used for dipping. In the latter process, the prepared wicks were dipped time and time again into the hot tallow until the candles had attained the desired size.

Only a little weaving was done, as sheep were not plentiful on the farms near the village. My grandfather kept a few sheep but mostly for meat and wool for knitting mittens and stockings.

Many women and children seated chairs. The empty frames were placed in a bench which usually held two, clamped in tight. Marshall Howe, who later married my aunt, Sarah Bourn, used to come at stated intervals with loads of frames from Gardner. These were left at the various houses along his route into the surrounding towns. He would pay for those done and take them on his return trip. How proud we felt with the few pennies earned in this way! Sometimes people would visit one another with a chair seat instead of the ever-present pieced bed spread or knitting.

Gardening and farming were carried on in nearly every household, also the canning of fruits, berries and vegetables. Berries were dried and stored away with the dried apples for future pies and cakes. The farmers made butter and cheese when fattening calves left plenty of milk to use. As we always had a cow or two, we had fresh butter and cheese at times and always our own fresh eggs.



How we did enjoy the cherry season! Every child in the village came to eat black cherries, so sweet and juicy; and we enjoyed the sour red cherries made into sauce and pies in the winter. There were also the mountain cranberries which were made into jelly.

Surprise parties at the Vernon Miles place were pleasures of the winter, where older people gathered in the huge fireplace room to visit with Great-grandfather and Great-grandmother Bourn who lived there; while the younger ones pulled molasses candy, popped corn and made cornballs in the large kitchen. Afterward, they played games — Copenhagen, Roll the Plate, Clap-in, Clap-out and Post-office. Great fun for the boys and girls! Sleigh-rides in the cold, fresh air — home at a late hour — induced healthful sleep.

Maple sugar parties featured the toothsome maple wax — hot syrup poured on fresh, clean snow — accompanied by pickles or codfish to balance the feast. These were always held at Grandfather Isaac Bourn's house for relatives and children. His younger children — Robert, Alice Eudora, Will, Ernest, Edward and Clara — have descendants away from Templeton.

Singing schools and prayer meetings were other gatherings held in the schoolhouse at regular intervals.

The district school has gone. Pupils walk to Riley's Switch and from there are carried by buses to the center school or to the high school. Where formerly each large family filled a carriage or sleigh and went regularly to church on Sunday, now a few automobiles take those desiring to go.

Few of the older houses are left, and new families occupy them — Millers in the Brick House, Merkels in the David Spear house, and Lester Pease on the Fairbanks place. Many houses have burned — the Isaac Bourn house among them, so nothing is left of the old tavern. A few small village houses



remain. Lester Pease has transformed the many fields of the Fairbanks place into orchards where he raises quantities of MacIntosh and other apples for market, employing many helpers for spraying, picking and sorting.

Mr. Pease is a leading citizen of the town and an influence for good in the village and community. He had two sons — Paul and Robert in World War II. He has been the superintendent of the church school for many years; and his two daughters, Marjorie and Dorothy, have helped in church work.

Dolly is getting restless, longing for the hay and grain waiting for her at the barn; so we'll turn homeward, down the hill, viewing the valley and the home at the foot of the hill where Lizzie and Emma Miles lived in district-school days. On we go by the cemetery and the pond and climb the ascent to the Ware River Railroad, where the Bourn-Hadley Company factory was rebuilt after a fire. It is now a branch of Conant-Ball Company, of Gardner.

On the other side of the road is the Ware River Station, and just beyond we pass the house built by Horace Chute, the first station agent. He married Inez Miles of the village. The place is now owned and occupied by Mrs. Ernest Bourn. Let's pause for a rest at the knoll (beyond), as we recall that Mrs. Nancy Briggs once lived there — before Mr. and Mrs. Lucien N. Hadley and their children, Lizzie, Arthur, Mary Ann, Lucy, Herbert, George and Walter. There come to mind many happy family gatherings during the forty-seven years at the Homelands.

We start on, passing Mrs. Will Bourn's house near the May place, and in a few minutes are back at the center again, after a memorable trip to Brooksvillage.

# EAST TEMPLETON

by

RUTH M. BISHOP

## EAST TEMPLETON

AS the traveler on the state highway (Route 2) approaches Templeton from Boston, he first enters that part of the town known as East Templeton. Like many New England villages, it consists of one main street where most of the public buildings are found — Memorial Hall, the church, the store, the postoffice and the schoolhouse. Various side streets extend from the main avenue; and here are found many of the homes, including some interesting old houses.

Continuing along the main street, which runs directly south, about a mile beyond the postoffice, one comes upon the little settlement known as Partridgeville. This is the historic section of the town, for it was here that some of the original settlers established homes. Also, from this section, grants of land were given out to the families of our town.

## PARTRIDGEVILLE

THE first meeting of the Proprietors was held in Partridgeville, called the Southeast Plantation. In very early records, it is referred to as "Mine Hill" section. The meetings were held on Ridge Hill, about 500 feet to the east from the four corners.

Finally, Noah Merritt and Ezekiel Knowlton settled here about 1756 — the latter on the land on the west side. His son, Stephen Knowlton, sold this property to Otis Partridge, Sr., in 1811. Noah Merritt settled on the east side of "Mine Hill".



In Partridgeville is a natural pond which feeds a large brook; and on this stream a gristmill was built by Otis Partridge. Later it was operated by Otis Partridge, Jr., and his brother, Herman. They moved the gristmill across the road and added a sawmill. On the old site they built a chair shop where they manufactured cane-seat chairs. All the cane was split by hand, boys doing this work. Later another shop was built, a two-story building. Otis Partridge, Jr., also made water wheels for mills.

In 1855, one shop was operated by Augustus Jones and his brother, George. In 1870, the firm was A. A. Jones and Company. They operated the upper shop and Merritt and Warren the lower factory. Later, Captain V. P. Parkhurst did business here. The buildings were destroyed by fire, and in 1938, the privilege was washed away.

### **SOMETHING ABOUT THE OLD HOUSES IN PARTRIDGEVILLE**

The houses in this hamlet were all built before 1850. The Ezekiel Partridge house stands as it was built in 1825. It is a large house with large rooms and a huge chimney in the center, with fireplaces in most of the rooms. The barn, also large, stood across the road. This property was owned by a member of the Partridge family until 1890, when it was sold. However, it was later bought back by Mr. Bartlett, a grandson.

The Aholiab Sawyer farmhouse was built in 1790, replacing a log cabin built about 1765. The present house stands about a half-mile from the four corners and faces west. On the east side of the house is a large kitchen, long and narrow, with a huge fireplace. There is also a fireplace in each room on the first floor. There is an old story that the fire in the kitchen was never allowed to go out for seventy years. It is also

related that a box of matches was bought of a peddler but never used for anything but lighting a fire out-of-doors.

The Otis Partridge, Junior, place was the first house from the four corners going west on the road to the center. It sits back from the road, a low-studded cottage with a central chimney. There have been no changes since it was built, about 1830.

The next house, across the brook, was the Otis Partridge, Senior, house. Though there have been some changes, in outward appearance it remains practically as it was built.

The Jones farm was owned by Aaron Jones and later by Augustus and George Jones who, in 1867, divided the old homestead. The house, facing the north, stands as it was built, with a central chimney and a large room each side of the front entrance. Originally, it had a long shed on the east side. The attic was used for a loom room. In 1900, this interesting old house was purchased by Dr. John Green of St. Louis, whose wife, Harriet Jones, was a Partridge descendant, thus restoring it to the family. Unfortunately, it was sold after Dr. Green's death.

In 1855, J. B. Works lived in a small house on the lower road to Hubbardston. It had been built many years before and stands today without change, very close to the road.

Perhaps the oldest house in Partridgeville is the one that stands at the bend of the road to the airport. It was occupied for many years by Oliver Brown, a soldier of the Revolution. In 1855, J. Whitney lived here.

Another old house is on the Cave Road. This was built about 1800 and in 1855 was occupied by T. Coleman. It is a very low cottage with the kitchen on the east side, though the house faces south. Originally, there was a large barn a few hundred feet to the east of the house; and the buildings were arranged to form a square.

## SOME OLD HOUSES IN EAST TEMPLETON

The first frame house built in East Templeton was owned by the Simonds family. The last owner was Zebedee Simonds, son of James. This house — a large one with central chimney — stood at the junction of the Gardner and Otter River roads. It had an upper and lower piazza on the west side and faced south on the turnpike. In 1813, it was sold to Joel Fales who occupied it for many years. The house was taken down around 1920.

The land on the south of the Square was owned by Zeba Simonds in 1800; and in 1834 he sold house lots, one of which was purchased by Joel G. Fales who built a house on the corner. This is now owned by his grandson, George Howard. The house stands as it was built, an ell having been added in its early years.

The next house (west) was built by Samuel Upham in 1856, and stands as it was built, having been used as an inn for thirty years. The ell was a gathering place for men, as it contained the bar. The kitchen was in the east side and the dining-room at the back of the house. All traveling men and minstrel troupes were entertained here. The house has never been changed; even the window trim and the front door remain the same. It is now owned by Mr. Upham's grand-niece (formerly Doris Turner).

The next house is very old, having been built before 1800. It is the homestead of Zeba Simonds, and in 1847, T. T. Greenwood lived in it. For many years it was occupied by Charles Whipple. It is a cottage-type house, and remains — outwardly at least — as it was built.

The second house west of the causeway was built by Abijah Fales. It is a small cottage of four rooms, facing north. Mr. Fales had to build it twice, as the hurricane of 1815 blew it



down. After living in the house for a year, he sold the property to Newell Day who owned the shop across the road. Mr. Day later sold to Jonathan Whitney who was sure the water on the land held medicinal properties. He built a large ell for a rest home, but the venture was not a success. Later the ell was moved across the driveway and remodeled into a dwelling house.

The old house at the corner of Sawyer Street and the Turnpike was built by Joshua Sawyer, Jr., and later owned by his nephew, William Sawyer, who lived there many years. The old brick oven was removed about 1940.

The oldest houses on Sawyer Street are on the corner of Gardner road and at the foot of the street. The first was built long before 1800 and was owned by Artemas Howe — later by his daughter, Abigail, who lived there until her death. She sold many acres of the farm to Abner Fales. The house is conspicuous by its steep pitch roof. There is a story that the well was dug first and the house built over it because the builder was afraid of Indians and wanted to be sure of a water supply. The second of these houses is the last on the street. The occupants owned the mill below. In 1820, Artemas Brown lived here, as he was in business with Joel Fales. Later the house was owned by Moses Gage, who operated the mill with Mr. Fales. Later still, George Sawyer lived here. This house was originally built as a boarding-house for the mill. In outward appearance, it remains unchanged.

The house at the corner of Mechanic Street and the Turnpike was owned in 1800 by Asaph Bush and his brother, Darius. Later it came into the possession of Jonathan Greenwood who, with his heirs, owned it for sixty years. A low-studded cottage, with central chimney, it looks as it did when built.

In 1855, there was, across the road, a house much like the

Greenwood house, owned by Mrs. D. Whitney, a widow, who also owned many acres on Cottage Street. In 1882, this house was moved a few hundred feet back on Cottage Street, and there it stands today. On its original site, C. N. Johnson built his mansion.

The house at the top of the hill was owned in 1855 by Hereford Potter. A small, low-ceiling cottage, it is supposed to stand correct with the compass, facing true south. The house remains as first built.

Next to this house is a larger one, with big rooms and fireplaces. It was built before 1800 by a Mr. Stone; and the succeeding owners were Mervin Coleman and his son, William.

On South Main Street, the first house was built about 1835 by J. C. Upham who occupied it for many years. The rooms were small with low ceilings. Two families lived in it — one occupying the east side, the other the west. In the east-side kitchen was an open water tank, with water running in and out continuously.

About a half mile south of the village was a large farm known as the Bush Farm. Jabez Bush came from Marlboro and purchased about 100 acres, building a small house, partly a log cabin. Later, Stephen Bush, his son, owned the property; and the next owner was Jonathan Bush, grandson of Jabez. Jonathan sold the property in 1849 to James Gulfing who built a new house across the driveway and tore down the old house.

Stephen Bush sold a part of his farm to his daughter, Lucy, and her husband, Austin Stockwell. They built a house a few hundred feet to the north — a small building with a very high pitch roof.

On North Main Street, the oldest house is the Gay place. It was built on the "ministerial lot". The income of this lot was to be used for the benefit of the First Church. Amos,

Gay built the house about 1785 and called it Mt. Pleasant. The house, a low cottage facing south, remains practically as built. It stands well back from the road because the latter was built by the county long after the house was built.

The first of East Templeton's two octagon houses was built on Main Street, about 1860, by T. T. Greenwood. It is three stories high, with a covered Widow's Walk or cupola. There are four rooms on each floor. The stair well is in the center of the house—four flights from the basement to the Widow's Walk. The latter has a stair landing, with a 6' passageway; and windows all around it reveal the landscape on every side. The reason for the windows, so tradition says, was that the owner of the house might watch the village, and especially the nearby Greenwood factory, for fires. This unusual house has always been an object of interest.

All the rooms in the house are square, the octagonal corners being made into closets, cupboards or other small rooms. A narrow piazza encircles the first floor.

This house has recently been purchased by the Holmbo family. It has been renovated inside and painted outside, so again it takes its place as one of East Templeton's interesting houses.

The other octagon house is on Cottage Street, having been built about 1870. It has the same floor plan as the Main Street house; but is only two stories high and has no Widow's Walk. There is a piazza on the south and west sides only.

## CONCERNING THE OLDEST FAMILIES OF PARTRIDGEVILLE

The Ezekiel Knowlton family was one of the first to come to Partridgeville. He settled on the west side near the pond. There were many children, and their descendents are now living in Gardner.



The Merritt family settled in the east part of the hamlet, and in 1945, there remained only one member living in East Templeton — Mrs. Helen Blackman, a direct descendant of Noah Merritt.

Of the Alihoab Sawyer family, that settled about 1785, there is only one member living in this village — W. W. Sawyer.

The Bush family came from Marlboro about 1790, Jabez Bush being the first to come here. He had a number of children; and Mrs. Ruth Bishop and W. W. Sawyer are the only descendents now living in East Templeton.

Otis Partridge came to Partridgeville in 1811 with his family of seven sons and seven daughters; and a son and daughter were born after the family arrived here. Otis Partridge and his oldest son, Ezekiel, bought 400 acres of Stephen Knowlton, formerly the Ezekiel Knowlton place. Maynard Partridge, the seventh son, removed to Royalston. He was the originator of the Partridge table for measuring logs into cord feet by a caliper measure. In January, 1880, there were 190 Partridge descendants. In 1945, there were living in East Templeton two members, George Howard and Ruth Eames, and one still lives in Partridgeville, Mrs. Alice Browning Barrett, a great-granddaughter of Mrs. Uriah Moore, the youngest of this Partridge, Senior, family.

## EARLIEST HISTORY OF EAST TEMPLETON

In 1730, was transferred to Captain Andrew Robinson of Gloucester, as a bounty from the French and Indian War — later to John Keyes of Shrewsbury, Edward Goddard of Framingham and by them to Gresham Keyes of Shrewsbury and John Hubbard of Worcester, a grant of three hundred acres. They later sold out of it one fortieth each to various persons; but one share was given to Governor Belcher. Mill

Brook ran through this tract of land which was called "Mine Hill" farm.

The first meeting of the Proprietors was held on Ridge Hill, at a point a few hundred yards to the east of the four corners in Partridgeville. Samuel Chandler of Concord led the meeting, and a contract was made with Samuel Sheldon of Billerica to build a sawmill; but he failed to do so. Another contract was made with Lt. Simonds and Reuben and Oliver Richardson who built a mill in 1743 on Lot No. 91. This mill was later burned by the Indians.

The next meeting was held in the same place, on Ridge Hill, and it was voted to survey and clear the roads. On May 9, 1750, they voted to lay out Meadow Lots, and a year later voted to build a meeting house.

Thomas Hobbs of Concord sold for 26 pounds and 10 shillings his Lot No. 91 to James Simonds and Reuben and Oliver Richardson. After two years, Reuben Richardson bought a lot of Jonathan Wyman. The record of this purchase is in the first of the eighty transfers of recorded deeds in Worcester. The Richardsons later sold their interest to Lt. James Simonds who built a saw-and grist mill. This was burned by Indians, and he went to Leominster. Ten years later, it was rebuilt by John Simonds.

— This mill was made entirely of wood, except the water-wheel crank. John Simonds was obliged to go to Boston for this, and brought it back on horseback, fording the streams and following the bridle paths. The mill was operated for many years by Zeba, John and Zebedee Simonds as a saw-and grist mill, also a shingle mill. It was again burned by the Indians, and these men did not rebuild. John went to Leominster, but Zeba and Zebedee remained here.



## WHITNEY TAVERN

The history of Whitney Tavern dates back to 1805. At that time, it was owned by Seras Cook. He conducted the largest and most accommodating tavern to be found anywhere on the route from Brattleboro, Vermont, to Boston.

In March, 1805, Seras Cook deeded the tavern to Joshua Tucker, a resident of Templeton. It was then known as Tucker Tavern. Jonathan Greenwood bought the tavern the sixteenth day of March, 1812; and four years later, it was sold to William Whitney.

The covered driveway, which gave shelter to teams overnight, was 110 feet long and 40 feet wide, allowing more than sufficient room to drive in eight four-horse teams at one time. Above this long driveway and extending its entire length, was a bowling alley. The tavern had three barns, built in such a way as to form a square open at one side. The largest barn was 80 feet in length, the next was 40 feet, and the third was 30 feet. The barns and the driveway together could accommodate 200 horses at one time. The former were filled with hay from the meadows belonging to the tavern.

One of the interesting features of these barns was the watering trough at the side of the road. This was hewed out of a pine log fifteen feet long, with a diameter of two and one-half feet. Springs across the road supplied the water.

Later, for years, there was a large iron tub which served as a trough. The water came from the same source, but it was discontinued when the state road, Route No. 2, was built. The owners of this property received a rebate on their taxes for this loss of water supply.

Mr. Whitney helped pull heavily laden wagons over the steep grade called Ladder Hill, by hitching his oxen on ahead of the horses. For this service, he would receive a quarter.



The entire second floor along the front section of the Tavern was used as a dance hall. The "orchestra" consisted of one lone fiddler who knew all the dance tunes of the day and was always ready to respond to the dancers' choice. Also, in this hall was held a dancing school. Candles provided the only lighting. Back of each candle-holder was a reflector made of many small mirrors set close together in a circle with a metal holder. One of these candle-holders now hangs in the front hall of the remodeled tavern. Also, in the hall is a kitchen-pot. This is a cylinder made from sheet metal, with one side open. Through the middle is a rod called the spit which is turned with a crank. The kitchen-pot was put in front of the fireplace, open side to the fire, and in it was roasted the meat for dinner.

"I burnt me finger in the Spit,  
I burnt me finger, I feel it yit".

Apparently pie was served at every meal at the Tavern, for the landlady herself, so it is recorded, made fifty pies every morning.

In 1830, the Tavern was remodeled. Half of the old building was moved about a quarter of a mile up the road and placed on a foundation. The moving was accomplished by means of oxen and rollers. In 1946, it was owned by G. Robbins.

The remaining part of the Tavern was made into a house and has been owned by the Baker family for many years. In 1946, it was owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Eames (Ruth Baker). Part of the barn lumber was used to build Greenwood & Wright Chair Shop.

One of the interesting stories connected with the old Whitney Tavern is this:

The sharpshooters of District Narragansett No. 6 were

gathered at the tavern for a muster. In the middle of the bar-room stood a keg of gun powder; and as the guns used at that time were muzzle loaders, each man filled his powder horn from the keg, which stood on end with the top entirely open. It was well into the afternoon, and the sharpshooters were fairly well intoxicated. One of them came to fill his powder horn from the keg, quite forgetting the pipe in his mouth. As he leaned over, a spark dropped from the pipe into the keg, with the result that one side of the bar-room was entirely blown out. Nobody was killed, but many of the men were badly hurt. It cost \$500 to repair the damage.

### STORY OF THE MILL ON NORTH MAIN STREET

Lots No. 89 and No. 91 remained in the Simonds family for several generations. They operated a saw-and grist mill and a shingle shop. All grain that was milled was raised in this locality.

In 1813, John Simonds deeded to Joel Fales of Walpole the 173 acres of land, with the mill site, water rights, and rights of flowage. The ruined mill was restored, the dam repaired and a new grinding stone installed. Mr. Fales also manufactured shingles. Many years later, Joel Fales sold his business to his son, Joel G. Fales. The latter took into partnership Edson Higley, and they converted the saw-and gristmill into a chair shop. In 1836, the firm was known as Higley and Fales. A few names which appear on their ledger are: Amos Gay, Luther Alden, Daniel Swan, Abel Davis, John Dyer, Bennett Potter, George Belcher, Cambridge Day, Artemas Bush, Merlin Coleman, Jonathan Cutting, John Gage, Calvin, Jonathan and Walter Greenwood, Abijah Hines, David Kendall and many others.

Fales and Higley, after many years, sold to Parker Jennison and Joseph Sawyer; later, Walter Greenwood and Samuel

Jennison bought the property. Then it was Walter Greenwood & Company, which included Charles Whitney, T. T. Greenwood, Daniel Mixter and Fitch Sargeant. These men carried on for many years.

Amasa Hodge bought the property in 1863 from the Miller River Bank and continued to make chairs for 23 years — until 1886, when the factory was burned.

About 1897, the people of the village raised \$1,000 by public subscription and purchased the old mill privilege and site. In 1898, the Bay State Metal Wheel Company erected a shop there. This factory was dedicated in December, 1898. Frederick Greenwood was the master of ceremonies, and some of the speakers were Percival Blodgett, Rep. Francis Leland, Colonel George Hawkes and Rev. W. F. Gilmore.

The main factory was 100' x 40', two stories and a basement, built at a cost of \$20,000. It was lighted by 90 double windows. Both steam and water power were utilized — 60 horse-power engine and 75 horse-power water service.

The firm comprised Julius Ballin, New York, President; George W. Travers, New York; O. W. Siebert, Clerk; Frank Hunt, Brattleboro, and J. Twohey, New York. It was a Massachusetts corporation with a capital of \$27,000. They manufactured wheels for velocipedes, go-carts, toy wagons, etc.

Later an addition was built to the original factory; and a separate concern, called Children's Vehicles Company, made baby carriages of all types. In 1910, this building was dedicated. In 1926, the section housing the Children's Vehicles Company was badly burned. However, it was repaired and business continued for many successful years.

Finally, the firm disbanded and sold and resold until Hedstrom Union purchased it and removed the machinery to Fitchburg.



The flood and hurricane of 1938 damaged the plant so greatly that all but one building was taken down. At present (1946) a small firm manufactures overstuffed furniture there.

### **FALES BROTHERS' SHOP**

At the lower end of Pleasant Street, before the street was built, stood a shop owned and operated by Otis Fales and his brother, Joel G. Fales, sons of Joel Fales, Sr. It was a small shop of two stories and a dry house. The water power carried 18 feet head. They manufactured chairs and chair backs. Across the way, they had a large blacksmith shop; and they owned the only trip-hammer in this section. They made small articles, such as hoes and rakes.

In November, 1880, the shop was burned to the ground. All the buildings were lost, including the blacksmith shop. The loss was about \$20,000, and as there was no insurance, the firm disbanded. Now the entire site and privilege are gone, ruined by the flood of 1938.

### **THE EAST TEMPLETON COOPERATIVE**

A cooperation of East Templeton residents and a few others was named, East Templeton Chair Company. They bought the mill and the privilege, formerly the property of the Sawyer Brothers, at the foot of Sawyer Street. This concern made cane seats for chairs and chair frames. For many years, the women of the vicinity did the seating by hand in their homes, the work being brought to them.

In 1880, the shop was destroyed by fire. The alarm was sounded, and the Bay State Engine was soon playing on the flames. The dry house was also in flames, due to the intense heat. The entire plant, with the exception of the water wheel, was destroyed. The loss was about \$20,000, with insurance of \$5,000. Most of the workmen were stockholders.

In 1881, the stockholders voted to rebuild. The new shop was to be three stories high, with a slate gable roof, and was built by M. M. Favor of Gardner. It was put together with 14" x 7" timbers and strongly braced; the floors were of 3" square plank. There were 134 windows to light the plant, and it had a powerful elevator running from the basement to the third story. This building was dedicated with a fair and grand ball in January, 1882. F. L. Sargeant was the floor manager; and at intermission, an oyster supper was served. This concern continued business until 1890, when it was disbanded and the property sold to George W. Travers of New York. Later, he added another building to the plant. Mr. Travers manufactured children's furniture, wooden toys and wooden chairs, as well as some of reed. About 1925, the buildings were burned to the ground; and now, in 1946, the entire privilege is gone — ruined by the flood of 1938.

### **THE TOY SHOP OF CHESTER N. JOHNSON**

Chester N. Johnson bought the old tannery site and in 1868 erected two buildings. Two stories high, with a frontage of 30 feet, they were connected by a foot bridge. Here were manufactured wooden toys, children's chairs, doll furniture, etc. Mr. Johnson continued in business until his death in 1894. Then the business was operated by Joshua Greenwood until 1897, when one of the buildings was badly burned. In 1898, Mrs. Nellie Greenwood took down what remained of the plant and erected a business block in West Gardner with the usable lumber.

For many years, this water privilege was not used. Around 1903, George Mooney bought the site and built a small, one-story shop where he made turned stock. After a few years, he added another story to the building and began to make reed furniture. Later, other firms operated in this shop —

Charles Harwood made chairs there — and once the building was made into tenements, but the venture was not successful. Eventually it was burned. In 1946, the pond that supplied the water power and the privilege had disappeared, destroyed by the flood and hurricane of 1938.

### **T. T. GREENWOOD & CO.**

The T. T. Greenwood shop was built in 1849, a few hundred yards below Mechanic Street. The first owners were T. T. Greenwood and Fitch L. Sargeant. They manufactured wooden tubs, pails and other wooden articles. The factory consisted of three buildings — the main building being two stories high with an ell in the rear. The shop was run by water power, supplied by a small pond in front of the plant. In 1896, a boiler was built and an engine and boiler installed to supplement the water power. Often in the summer, the plant had been obliged to cease work because of lack of water. In September, 1894, a paint shop was built across the street, two stories high and about 25' x 50'.

After a few years, Mr. Greenwood bought Mr. Sargeant's interest; and the firm became T. T. Greenwood and Sons. They manufactured bedroom furniture, mostly of pine and birch wood. This firm also operated a furniture store at 8 Cross Street in Gardner; later it was moved to Main Street. After the death of T. T. Greenwood, the shop was operated by Frederick Greenwood and his brother, Thomas, who later sold his share. About 1906, the business was discontinued. A few years later, another concern manufactured small articles in the paint shop. This building was afterward destroyed by fire; and the hurricane of 1938 entirely ruined the site and privilege.

T. T. Greenwood bought a portion of the Jones farm in Partridgeville to flood for a reservoir for use by manufacturers.



## THE TANNERY ON TANNERY HILL

Tannery Hill was at the foot of Mechanic Street. It was a sharp decline from Gardner Road, following down the gulley to meet the lower end of Sawyer Street. At the head of the hill, were the tannery and oil mill.

This tannery had many owners in the course of its existence, the first of whom are not known. But early in 1800, it was owned by Jonathan Bush and later by Jonathan Bush and Daniel Swan, then by Daniel Swan alone. Finally, it was sold to Warren Simonds and a Mr. Peckham. They later deserted it, and the building was left to decay. But in 1868, C. N. Johnson bought the site and built his shop.

## UNDERWOOD MILL

On the old site of the Underwood Mill were, for many years, the ruins of the Underwood brothers' saw mill, situated on North Main Street, on the old road to Otter River. The mill stood a few feet below the Ridgely Club's dam, and was run by the Underwoods for many years — until the supply of lumber gave out. Then it was deserted.

## BROOKS MILL \*

About 1820, Joel Fales and Artemas Brown bought the Brooks Mill at Floodwood and set it up opposite the Sawyer house now owned (1946) by Horace Gill. Lumber only was sawed there. Later, Moses Gage and George Sawyer owned the mill, and subsequent owners were the Sawyer brothers. They, in turn, sold the property to the East Templeton Chair Company.

\*Early records of Brooks Mill not available.

## THE SMALL SHOPS

In 1820, a chair business was begun in this village by Newell Day. The shop stood on the west of the causeway, on the site of the present bus terminal (1946). Newell Day made woodseat chairs. Later he sold out to Jonathan Whitney who started making flag-seat chairs which were very popular.

A small factory stood a few yards below the East Templeton corner, back a few hundred feet from the road, and was used by a number of different firms. Captain V. P. Parkhurst painted chairs there; Pembroke Johnson at one time made winnowing mills, used in grinding grain. However, the demand for these ceased because of Western granaries. Later, Martin V. B. Grimes and his brother, Lucius, endeavored to manufacture children's carts and toy wagons; but a depression forced them to close this business. J. C. Upham also made tables here. From 1878 to 1881, this shop was owned by Ernest L. Nitsche and used by him for a furniture paint shop. At a later date, H. J. Wright and a Mr. Tottingham became the owners of the building; and many years afterward, it was taken down.

In the building now known (in 1946) as the Monett Block, a Mr. Bunting had a tin shop for many years. He also ran a grocery store in the same building.

On the Coleman farm on Cottage Street, early records reveal a boot and shoe shop existed. Later it became a barber shop.

Abiathia Fales made hemmers for sewing machines and also did electro-nickel plating in the early days of the village.

## THE UPPER SHOP

The main shop was about 25' x 70', two stories and a basement. The engine house, which connected with it, was 20' x 40'; while the storehouse was 40' x 50', two stories high;

and the lumber shed was 20' x 50'. The shop was built about 1846, on the privilege a few hundred feet above the present (1946) Methodist Church, by Bennett Potter who, with T. T. Greenwood, manufactured chairs and chair frames. Mr. Greenwood afterward bought out Mr. Potter and continued the business alone. Later, he sold to Parker and Jennison who enlarged the building. The next firm became Parker-Sawyer and Company which did an extensive business in all kinds of chairs.

In 1868, the business was sold to McLean and Dickerson who, in turn, sold it to a Mr. Forbush. Subsequently, Captain V. P. Parkhurst purchased the property and carried on for many years. In 1884, the buildings were owned by A. H. Proctor of Gardner; but the firm of Whitney and Firmin carried on business there. In 1886, the entire plant was destroyed by fire and never was rebuilt. There was insurance in the amount of \$4,000.

## MEMORIAL HALL BUILDING

The Memorial Hall Building was erected by Captain V. P. Parkhurst as private property. This building stands at the junction of the Gardner roads and was built about 1880. It is 38' x 66' and three stories high. The first floor was used for stores: A. S. Hodge sold groceries and dry goods; Jackson and Brock had a boot and shoe shop; and Miss Lucy Whitney operated a millinery store. These were the first storekeepers.

The second floor was used for entertainment purposes, having a small stage and a fine dance floor. It was handsomely finished in black walnut and chestnut. On each side of the room is a marble tablet, framed by black walnut with cannon balls on the arches; the whole being decorated with



the national emblems and bearing the names of the men of Templeton who gave their lives in the Civil War. There are 47 names engraved on these tablets.

The third floor of the building was used for a lodge room by the Grand Army of the Republic for many years. Also, on the third floor are a large kitchen and dining-room. Later, the building became the property of Ericson Post No. 109.

### EAST TEMPLETON CHURCHES \*

In 1840, the first steps were taken for a Methodist Church; and the Templeton "circuit" was formed which included, in addition to Templeton, South Royalston, Petersham, Phillipston and Hubbardston.

In 1843, the church building was erected, with a membership of but 23 at that time.

\*See section on CHURCHES for a complete record.

### SCHOOLS \*

Early records show that the first school in East Templeton was in Partridgeville and was known as District No. 2. Sometimes classes were held in homes, and there is a record of a school held in a barn near the four corners. From 1794 to 1827, there were seven male teachers; the wages per week, besides board, being from \$1.87 to \$4.00. There were also seven female teachers during the same period; and their wages were between 67 cents a week and \$2.33. In the 33 years, there were only 158 weeks of schooling.

About 1827, Partridgeville became District No. 3. The town voted a sum of money for a new school, and a building was erected halfway between Falesville and the Sawyer Place. Maria Cutting was the teacher for many years. Finally this building was sold to Bennett Potter, Jr., and moved to a site

a few hundred feet west of the present Methodist Church. He sold it to Bennett Potter, Sr., who remodeled it and added an ell, making it into a dwelling house, which he occupied for many years. The next owner was Jonathan Whitney; later it came into the hands of Frances Moore; and now (1946) it is owned by Roland Goodwin. Names of the scholars attending this school include Partridge, Jones, Merritt, Sawyer, Bush, Alden, Turner, French, Day and Goddard.

Another school was built on Mine Hill, a few hundred feet east of Partridge Four Corners, about 1827. In 1893, this building was discarded, and the scholars of the Partridge District were sent to the schools in East Templeton. The last teacher in this school was Miss Amy G. Perkins.

In 1830, a schoolhouse was built in Falesville. It stood a few hundred feet west of the present church (1946). It was a larger building than the others, with six large windows on each side. In use for many years, it was later moved to a site on the Gardner road, east about 200 yards from the corner, and was made into a blacksmith shop by Henry Wright. Eugene Chipman was one of the last of the smiths. The forge was placed in the rear of the building, the entrance remaining the same.

The next school was built on land given to the town for that purpose by Abel S. Dudley and located east of the church. School was held in this building for many years, high-school sessions being conducted here when the high school first came to East Templeton. The building still stands as when built.

About 1874, the School Street schoolhouse was built, and it remained in continuous use until 1923, when the Main Street School was built.

\*See section on SCHOOLS for complete record.

## OLD ROADS IN AND ABOUT

The first road was surveyed for a bridle path and was continued from Westminster. Later it was surveyed for travel by oxen and carts from the southerly part of Gardner (Pail Factory District), crossing the Otter River by a pole bridge, through Partridgeville, to the Center.

The next road to be built was the Turnpike No. 5, through South Gardner, Route No. 2. Ladder Hill was very steep, and about 1845, the road at the east side was reconstructed and a wall built. The rocks were put into place by a crew of men and 50 pairs of oxen. About 1899, at a very heated Town Meeting, it was voted to reduce the grade by removal of 25,000 feet of earth, the cost to the town to be \$2,500, the remaining expense to be met by the builders of the Electric Railway Company. A ballot resulted in 200 "yeas" and 165 "nays".

In 1793, a road was built from the church in Hubbardston to Winchendon (Ipswich-Canada), passing through Simondsville (East Templeton). Early records of the county roads read: "passing by the Simonds Mills". This road runs north until it reaches the top of the hill, then branches northeast to the village of Jonesville (Otter River), passing the Underwood Mills — now (1946) the Ridgely Club property. The road entered the village on the west side of the railroad tracks. From Simondsville to Hubbardston, it passes through Partridgeville, down the steep hill by the cave, into Hubbardston through Poutville.

About 1870, the road to Gardner was built, parallel to the Turnpike No. 5. At that time, the road from the turnpike, just below the Gardner line, was discontinued.



School Street and Pleasant Street were opened between 1860 and 1870.

Before 1800, the road connecting the Turnpike and the old road in Partridgeville was built. There were four large farm-houses on this road, now (1946) called Cottage Street.

## SONS AND DAUGHTERS

Dr. Salome Merritt was "borned" in the village, on South Main Street, February 21, 1843, the daughter of Increase and Susan Merritt. She had her early education in the district school on South Main Street, and at an early age went to Boston to live. There she studied under Dr. Hamelin and later became a family doctor. In 1898, she was associated with the Woman's Charity Hospital in Roxbury.

Frederick Greenwood was the son of Thomas and Louisa (French) Greenwood, and was born on June 5th, 1850. He attended the village school and later studied at Wilbraham Academy. In his early life, he was a newspaper reporter in Chicago, but later returned to the village to join with his father and brothers in the manufacturing business. After the death of his father, he and his brother, Thomas, managed the factory; and later the latter withdrew from the business. Frederick Greenwood held many town offices during his life.

George Ira Alden was "borned" on Cottage Street, April 22, 1843. His early education was received in the district school in Partridgeville. He attended Harvard College in 1862 and later received a degree at Cornell. From 1868 to 1896, he headed the Mechanical Engineering Department of the Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Also, he was consulting engineer of the Norton-Emery Company and president of the

Norton Company and the Norton Grinding Company. He held several offices in Worcester banking houses and served for many years on the school board there.

Abiathar Fales was "borned" in the village and baptised June 10, 1827, the son of Joel Fales and his wife, Ruth. About 1850, he trekked to California to make his fortune searching for gold, returning in 1851, poorer but wiser.

## SONS

Oscar A. Thayer was born August 10, 1870, in Orange, but he spent his boyhood in this village. He was educated in the village schools and went to Fitchburg to study draftsmanship; later becoming a well-known architect. He designed Hastings Hall in Fitchburg, the Nursery for Blind Babies in Boston and many other buildings of note. He also designed the new East Templeton School on Main Street.

John B. Wheeler was "borned" in East Templeton, a son of Eben and Mary Wilder Wheeler and was a descendant of the first settler in Baldwinville. He became a student of nature; was expert in zoology, ornithology, geology and an authority on ceramics. At one time, he had a bushel of arrow heads, spear heads, hammers and other weapons fashioned by the Indians. He was engaged in the collection and sale of antiques and curios after 1885. Twenty-two winters were spent in the tropics in natural history work. Mr. Wheeler was also a superintendent in the state work for the suppression and extermination of the gypsy and brown-tail moths.

Major Albert Potter was born in the village in June, 1870, a son of Wilbur and Georgianna Richards Potter. He moved to Gardner when a young man. In July, 1899, he was promoted to the rank of captain, while serving in the Army in

the Spanish-American War. In 1919, he became a major. Major Potter served in many public offices in the city of Gardner.

Fred Stanley Hunting was born in the village, on South Main Street in September, 1867, the son of William and Mary Day Hunting. His early education was in the village; and he was graduated from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in 1888. He became president of Fort Wayne Electric Light Company and chief engineer, vice-president and treasurer successively of the General Electric Company. Mr. Hunting also served in many offices in the banking business — becoming president of the First National Bank of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Charles Ingalls was born in the village in 1854, the son of Lemuel and Eunice Richardson Ingalls, and was educated in the village schools. He was a student of nature and wrote a number of booklets on such subjects as, "Birds of Templeton", "Crow", "Ants", etc. He gave many lectures, especially in the schools of the county and was recognized as an authority on the bird life of Worcester County. In April, 1898, Mr. Ingalls went to the Klondike with ten other men from this district, organized under the name of "Athol Mining Company". They bought their supplies in Tacoma, Washington, and there built a boat to run by steam; it was 45 feet long and 12 feet beam, and was to be used in ascending the rivers and exploring the rich streams. In Dawson City they became discouraged and decided to give up the adventure and return home. They arrived the first of October, and are quoted as saying, "We had experience with great hardship but no gold".

Another native of East Templeton became a well-known lawyer in Boston. He was Benjamin Baker, son of Professor Lucas Baker. In later years, he resided in Virginia.



Lewis Gay, son of Amos Gay, was born in 1797 in the house that his father built on the "ministerial lot". He spent his early life here, learning the grocery trade. Later he went to Boston, where he occupied a stall in Faneuil Hall Market for many years and became wealthy. He returned to his native town in his latter years and spent the remainder of his life on the old homestead. He died in 1881, at the age of 84.

## DIVISION OF THE TOWN OF TEMPLETON

In 1785, the question of division of the town was first agitated, when the residents of the north end of Templeton and the southern part of Winchendon petitioned the General Court to be made into a separate township. In 1851, division agitation was renewed, and the town to be formed was to be known as "LeRoy". A great deal of feeling was manifested, but the division was not granted.

In 1892, a petition for a division was obtained and presented to the Legislature. In 1896, a hearing was held in Room 426 in the State House in Boston. Hon. Percival Blodgett represented the south part and J. Otis Wardwell the northern part of the town, showing its geographic conditions. He said that the two sections were already provided with the requirements — such as schools, fire department, cemetery, churches and halls for meetings. In 1894, the town ordered the future town meetings to be held in the village of Otter River; and the voters of the south part were compelled to travel from two to six miles to attend town meetings. The bill in the Legislature was No. 1082. The Legislative Committee on Towns reported unanimously in favor of this division, the new town to be called Baldwinville and include Otter River, and the old town to retain the name of Templeton. By an act of Legis-

lature, the voters were to ballot in June, 1896 and September, 1896.

Baldwinville proposed to have 12½ square miles, with a valuation of \$800,000, 465 voters and a population of 1,800.

Templeton proposed to have 21½ square miles, a valuation of \$450,000, a population of 1,200 and 286 voters.

The Vote of the Town	June 20, 1896		Sept. 26, 1896	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Precinct No. 1. Templeton	122	13	126	15
Precinct No. 2. East Templeton	103	1	109	1
Precinct No. 3. Otter River	7	84	9	81
Precinct No. 4. Baldwinville	18	265	42	235

By these votes, the township remained the same; and the attempt to divide the Town of Templeton had failed again.

## TEMPLETON STREET RAILWAY

A company was formed, with a capital of \$50,000, to build an Electric Street Railway. Ten thousand dollars was subscribed in Templeton. The first officers were: President, Frederick Greenwood; Clerk, Charles Ingalls; Auditor, Percival Blodgett. The directors were: Dr. S. E. Greenwood, George W. Bourn, Eugene Lincoln and H. J. Wright. Patrick Hirsch was the contractor, and he sublet the work to the New England Electric Railway Construction Company of Worcester. Work was begun on October 6, 1899.

The power house, which was located in this village, on Main Street, was 56' x 76', built of brick. The engine house was equipped with one Noyes tandem compound engine, and one cross compound Buckeye engine of 500 horse power. The electric equipment consisted of two generators — one 150 kilowatts, the other, 200 kilowatts. Both were manufactured

at Fort Wayne, Indiana. Louis Borden was the first engineer, and his assistant was William Redman. The two boilers were of 250 horse power each. The first superintendent was R. D. Colburn of Hyde Park; the first motormen, Knox Kent and W. E. Snow from Hyde Park and Thomas Shaw from Roslindale, also Merrick Blanchard from Athol. Conductors were: Coleman from East Templeton, Brooks from Baldwinville, Doherty and Hawkes from Templeton.

The car barn had three tracks, and the company owned five cars. Two flat cars were built to haul freight to and from the factories along the line of the road, with an electric engine to haul the freight cars.

The first car was operated for the public on July 30, 1900, at 8:00 p. m. On the return trip, when the car reached the center, people were out in large numbers to watch and cheer. Soon the line was extended to Athol; and the first car over the Baldwinville branch of the Templeton Street Railway ran on July 3, 1901.

### ODD ITEMS ABOUT THE VILLAGE

Joshua Sawyer was the promoter in securing the East Templeton Post Office. He drew up a petition and got many signers, but this went by default; and he was obliged to obtain the petitioners again. Previously, the residents of East Templeton went to the center for their mail. About 1866, this petition was granted, and Fitch Sargeant became the first postmaster. He served until 1892, then Edward and Thurber Sargeant and Louis Pond were the postmasters successively. In 1902, the office was moved from the Sargeants' store to the G. A. R. Building, with Martin Grimes as the postmaster. He served until 1909, then Miss C. B. Robbins followed. Now, in 1946, Mrs. Bertha Connors is postmaster.

The village had been called the Southeast Plantation and



later, Simondsville. Then it became known as Falesville, but on acquiring a postoffice, it was renamed by the Government, East Templeton. In some of the families, the same numbered box has been used since Mr. Sargeant assigned them in alphabetical order.

There was a stage from Gardner to Templeton once a day which carried passengers and the mail. The charge was 35 cents, and for many years, George Jacob was the driver. But there were many drivers up to 1900 when the street railway was built, and the old stage coach became a thing of the past. The children of the village thought it great fun to watch the stage come in.

In September, 1861, the 25th Regiment, Company I, was organized and went to camp at Worcester. It was mustered into service on October 8th, with Varinus Parkhurst as captain. The Company contained 34 men from Templeton. Company D of the Massachusetts 36th Regiment was organized in Templeton in August, 1862, under Captain Amos Buffum, with 31 men from Templeton, most of them from the East Village. Company G, 53rd Regiment (9 mos.) was organized in September, 1862.

The Ericson Post No. 109 of the Grand Army of the Republic was organized in the East Village in 1869.

Beyond the Abraham Garfield house on the Otter River Road (about 400 feet from the corner, on the right), a large gate opened on a lane leading to a park. Here ball games, picnics and target-shooting meets were held.

On April 3, 1890, the Village Improvement Society was organized by a group of home owners, meeting in Memorial Hall. The purpose was to improve the village in any way possible. The first president was Charles Ingalls, with Fred Greenwood as vice-president, O. A. Thayer as secretary and

Mrs. Frank Gage, treasurer. The same month the village was solicited for funds, and the committee reported \$203.00.

In 1890, it was voted to call the street on which the school was located, School Street.

For many years the sidewalks were repaired and plowed during the winter by the society. In 1914, forty elm trees were set out in memory of Mrs. Julia Sawyer who gave a sum of money to the town. In 1920, the society purchased additional trees, and John B. Wheeler planted them on the plot of land in front of the church, in memory of the East Templeton soldiers who lost their lives in World War I.

On March 16, 1854, a meeting was called and a society formed to establish a library in East Templeton. J. B. Sawyer was chosen president; C. W. Brooks, vice-president; and F. L. Sargeant, secretary and treasurer, as well as the first librarian. Any person could become a member by purchasing shares at \$2.50 each. Each share carried a vote and was transferable. The original membership list contained thirty-four names. Annual meetings were held until 1888, and a little later the society was disbanded. In May, 1903, books and cases were given to the Boynton Library at Templeton Center and received by Charles Lane, librarian.

On the Hubbardston Road from Partridgeville is a series of terraces and ledges, rising abruptly to a height of 70 feet. On a small plateau, about one-third of the distance up the hill, is the entrance to a cave. At one time, it was possible to enter the cave erect, but a huge boulder has settled in front of the mouth and now (1946) it is impossible to enter. For years, however, one could creep in on hands and knees to the spot where the roof begins to rise. The cavern is about 57 feet in length, and its widest part is about 9 feet, contrasted with 26 inches at the entrance. On the wall, drill marks can



be plainly seen. According to an old tradition, Indians told settlers in Concord of finding ore here. It is very probable that "Mine Hill" excavation was made about 1712. In 1824, the cave was reopened to allow visitors to enter.

On September 6, 1881, residents of the village were in a panic because of the atmospheric darkness which settled in the early morning. In the early evening, the sky was a greenish-blue. The air was very still; it was hard to breathe, and everything was very wet and sticky — a condition caused by sulphuric elements in the fog. All the schools were dismissed and the Second-Day Adventists were sure the end of the world had come!

Fish was very plentiful in all the ponds. During the year of 1881, Charles Whipple caught 300 pickerel from one pond; while three lads caught 181 in one forenoon. For a number of years, Charles Whipple and A. Fales carried on a business of shipping shiners to Boston.

At one time there were two livery stables in East Templeton: Jackson and Brock had one in the Fales barn; and H. J. Wright had another. Later he bought out the former concern, combining the two businesses.

In 1882, C. C. Merritt, Esq., of Springfield — formerly of East Templeton — placed in the town hall a marble tablet containing the names of Captain Ezekiel Knowlton's company which marched from here to Cambridge to defend the Massachusetts Colony.

The "ministerial lot" in Southeast Plantation was on the north side of Mill-Brooks. Amos Gay, before 1776, bought a portion of this lot and built a house upon it. The lot was set aside for the benefit of the First Church, and in 1813, the remaining land was sold at public auction. Thomas Fisher, Moses Wright, Adams Jones, Timothy Parker and David



Cobleigh were elected by the inhabitants, in a legal meeting, on the 5th day of April, 1813, to sell all the ministerial land in the town. The last lot went to Joel Fales for \$35.00. This was the west part of Lot No. 1.

The Bay State Engine Company was about the first fire apparatus in East Templeton. Then came Rough and Ready, a large machine with more power, being pumped by hand. The latter remained here in the village until 1898, when a steamer was purchased and Rough and Ready was assigned to Templeton. For many years, it was used as a sporting feature at state musters.

About 1825, Newell Day, who made chairs at the shop near the present causeway, sold his property to Jonathan Whitney, after winning a lottery prize of a few thousand dollars. He then bought the stage route from Templeton to Worcester, making the trip once a week to carry the mail, papers and passengers. Later he moved to Royalston.

Captain V. P. Parkhurst, who served in the Civil War, also manufactured chairs in the village. Later, he went to Jamaica where he studied the plant life of the region, making a collection of specimens. However, he contracted a fever on the return trip and died before reaching home.

Mrs. Polly French was the oldest person to live in East Templeton. She died at the age of 101 at the home of her son, Fitch Sargeant. She was a native of Vermont.

About 1910, through the efforts of Herbert Lowell of this village, an agent for H. B. Rust Company, Providence, R. I., an agreement was made to install electric lights in the town.

## STORY OF THE EELS

Many years ago, the manufacturing was all done by water power; and the shops were often obliged to shut down for one reason or another. At the upper shop, where the water was

highest, there was an eight-foot fall. At low water, the fall would be hardly four feet. Then the eels would sometimes get into the turbine water wheel, completely choking off the water flow. When this happened, a man had to go into the wheel and cut the eels out. There was just enough room between the penstock and the wall for a man to walk down from the inlet gate to the water wheel. Sometimes he would cut out many bushels of the eels.







FIRST FRAME HOUSE

# Old Houses of Templeton

by

EDITH GRAY HINDS



## OLD HOUSES OF TEMPLETON

AT the time of the incorporation of the town in 1762, there were about fifty families scattered through the township, the greatest number in the southern and western sections of the town, the latter being a part of Phillipston.

These families lived in log cabins and crude shelters. There was only one frame house in the town, what is now known as the Dolbear house, which was built in 1760 by Zaccheus Barrett at the foot of Dolbear hill, about a mile south of the center of the town.

We have an interesting description of this house written several years later: It is two stories in front and one story in the back with the long lean-to roof. The eaves hang low over the back side, characteristic of the architecture of that day. The timbers are massive and strong, some of them being a foot square. At the time it was built, the walls were unplastered, the beams and joists being left uncovered. The floors and ceilings were unpainted, but thoroughly scoured. The chimney occupied a space in the center of the house large enough for a room of moderate size. There was also the brick oven and large fireplaces in every room.

It was in this house that Rev. Ebenezer Sparhawk, the second minister was ordained. The house remained in Mr. Barrett's family for three generations; the last members of



the family to occupy it being the Dolbear sisters, granddaughters of Mr. Barrett. Through their lifetime it remained practically as it was built, but during the last fifty years it has undergone many changes, through various owners, and occupants. It is still standing and in a very good state of preservation. The original shape of the house has been retained but the inside has been materially changed. It is now owned and occupied by George Couillard.

Mr. Barrett built a similar house on the hill about opposite the Dolbear house, which was taken down many years ago.

After the incorporation of the town the log cabins were gradually replaced by more substantial buildings.

The second house in the township was built on what is now Templeton Common about where the well in front of the present parsonage is located. The Common at that time was a forest.

The house was known as the Joshua Wright Tavern and was erected in 1763. It was a large square house with a pitch roof, another type of architecture common in those early days. Later it was moved to its present site, beside the library and was owned and occupied by Benjamin Hawkes. The house has hand hewn beams and beautiful pine paneling. The brick oven was one of the largest in town and back of it there is a secret door which leads to an open space beside the huge chimney, large enough to conceal a man. Doubtless it was constructed as a hiding place against the Indian raids. It has had several owners but was finally purchased by Charles H. Flood of Brookline who restored many of its original features, making it one of the most interesting houses in the center of the town. It is now owned by Charles Dewey.

The third frame house was built by the town's second minister, Rev. Ebenezer Sparhawk and was occupied by him

as a parsonage during his many years of service. After his death it was purchased by his successor, Dr. Charles Wellington, who in turn occupied the house for over fifty years. It remained in the Wellington family for several years after his death and was familiarly known as the Wellington House. It is of the square two-story type with a two-story ell and stands at the end of what is now known as the Wellington Road. Its present owner is Herbert Maynard. This old house which stands "somewhat back from the village street" has two beautiful elm trees which throw their shadows "across its antique portico".

The house brings up many happy memories. As stated, it was the residence of two ministers of long pastorate, comprising nearly 100 years. It was in front of that house that the big load of wood was delivered. All through that eventful century and for many years after that time the house has been the setting for gracious hospitality. Young and old were ever welcome. Little children loved to go there and play around the roots of the elm trees and on rainy days investigate the attic treasures, play on the old spinet, dress up in quaint costumes and gay hats, and eat butternuts that came from the tree at the south of the house. Sugar cookies were sometimes given them for refreshments as well as peppermint candy sticks.

These two ministers had many children and grandchildren, who were always given a warm welcome, when they came to visit at the parsonage.

In 1770, Silas Stone, a cousin of Leonard Stone, who was one of the early settlers of Otter River, built the only brick dwelling in what is now the center of the town, the brick having been imported from England.

It was at one time known as the Joseph Upham Tavern, but later was used as a private high school. The last principal of the school was Sylvester Judd, who was well known as the author of "Margaret". The school was suspended in 1837. The house has been the home at different times of two of our physicians, Dr. Spencer and Dr. Tobin.

It is a square, two-story house with a hip roof; and there is a two-story ell built of wood. This ell was evidently added at a later date for the convenience of the school, as the number and arrangement of the rooms would indicate. The house is now owned and occupied by Miss Elsa W. Stone (1946).

Between the years 1770 and 1800 a number of frame houses were erected. Several were located in the center of the town in close proximity to the church and a goodly number on the farms or claims in the outlying areas.

Two houses on the Athol road, now standing were built in 1775 and 1776. The house so long owned and occupied by Lucien Hadley was erected by Eben Goodrich, and was once the home of Sarah Goodrich, the miniature painter, and her brother William, the organ builder. The large frame house on the opposite side of the road was built by Benjamin Read. This house was later occupied for many years by J. P. Sibley who owned and operated a tannery near by.

At Baptist Common, north of the center, the house now occupied by Louis M. Brown and which has been in the Brown family for several generations, was built by Silas Cutler in 1780. Like so many of the houses in the early days, it was used as a tavern when Baptist Common was a thriving business center. In that house the Baptists assembled for their Sunday services before the church was erected.



In 1786, the fourth frame house on the common was built by John Lock. It was occupied for many years by Ephriam Stone, owner of the brick store which is now the Narragansett Historical Building. This was later occupied by Rev. Edwin G. Adams, Dr. Wellington's successor. Mrs. Florence Winch is the present owner. (1946)

On the Baldwinville Road, not far from the common, there still stands one of the fine old homes which has been restored. This is the Cutting house, built in 1790 by Jonathan Cutting, on his farm.

It remained in the Cutting family for three generations, and is now owned by Dr. Edwin St. John Ward. (1946)

This house also has exceptionally beautiful paneling and one of the largest kitchens in town, which contains a huge fireplace. Here friends and neighbors were always welcome and royally entertained. Now, as in old days, the same room receives its callers and refreshments are served around the same large fireplace, though the room is no longer the kitchen, but the living room. A modern kitchen has been built in the rear of the house.

Just beyond the Cutting house is the Cobleigh house. This was built in 1823 by David Cobleigh. It is the large square type with pitch roof and is said to have replaced a little red house on the opposite side of the road.

Returning along the Baldwinville Road, next to Dr. Ward's house will be found one of the oldest houses in town, reported to have been built by John Chamberlin.

Originally it was a one-story house, with two rooms and from the back room a stairway leading to the loft above, with the overhead hand hewn beams supporting the roof of the loft.

Later the house was bought by Deacon Paul Kendall. At the time of the marriage of Charles Parkhurst to Elizabeth Dar-

row, Mr. Parkhurst built on to the little house what is now the main part and on the western end, built a barn.

Mr. and Mrs. Parkhurst lived there for several years, later moving to the house across the way and renting the little house with its addition. Through the years it has had many different occupants.

In 1914, the house was bought by Elizabeth W. Lord, who is the present owner. (1946)

The Josiah Wilder house off the Barre Road, about two and a half miles from the center, on what is now the Henshaw farm, was built in the closing years of the century. It is the square, two-story type and is said to have replaced a log house, believed by some to be the first dwelling in the township.

About a mile and a half below the Wilder house on what is now the Barre Road was the farm owned by Simeon Gray. The house, of the lean-to type, was built in 1797 by Robert Fitts, Mr. Gray's father-in-law. In 1862, the house was taken down and brought to the center of the town where it was rebuilt and occupied for many years by John Whittemore, a son-in-law of Mr. Gray.

The "Meadows", which is now just over the Phillipston line, was one of the old frame houses of the town built by Abner Sawyer. It was restored by Charles H. Flood of Brookline.

In the beginning of the last century, the early eighteen hundreds, many new frame houses were built throughout the town, and it is interesting to compare the different type of architecture with those built at an earlier date. The earliest houses were either of the saltbox type, two stories in front and one in the rear, like the Dolbear house or of the large square type with the pitched roof while the later houses were of two stories, either square or rectangular, with the hip roof, and long ells in the rear or at the side. An early example of



this mansion type is the Winch house on the South Road built about eighteen hundred, by Dr. Josiah Howe. Some of the timbers used in the barn were salvaged from the old sled built to carry the famous load of wood to the minister.

There were several such houses built about this time. On the Baldwinville road is the Parkhurst house, now owned by Mrs. Henry Kirke White, the Abijah Jones house, now owned by his granddaughter, Mrs. Hovey, and the Cobleigh house, built about 1823.

On the Wellington Road, at the corner of the Petersham road, is the large house built by Cyrus Brown in 1807 but long occupied by Dexter Gilbert and known as the Gilbert House; the Cutting house built by Jonas Cutting and the house now owned by Henry Seaver and built by David Van Dorn were also of this period. All of these houses are in a good state of preservation.

In the early years, at the corner of the South Road on the common stood a long, low building which was used for stores and little shops of various kinds. In 1829, Colonel Artemus Lee erected a large house with a long ell and a barn on this site. The standing timber in its construction was given to Colonel Lee, and the house cost \$11,000. It was at that time one of the show places of the town. There have always been stores in the building and for several years Colonel Lee operated a store there. The Boynton Public Library was housed in the second story of the ell and the Knights of Honor and the Grange had their halls in the ell also. The main part of the building was used as a residence. In 1870, the buildings and business were sold by Colonel Lee to Percival Blodgett. In 1895, Mr. Blodgett sold the business to Lincoln and Johnson but retained the ownership of the buildings and occupied the residence. The store has been owned and occupied now for



several years by Frank Johnson or members of his family. The buildings remained in the Blodgett family until 1945, when they were purchased by Leonard Brooks.

On the lot adjoining the old Gilbert house, stood formerly the first Town House constructed from the timber used in the first meeting house which was abandoned in 1811, after the erection of the new edifice. When this old Town House gave way to the new one, this timber was used in the construction of the dwelling house which now stands on this lot and is owned by Mrs. Annie Barstow.

Across from the Colonel Lee house was the old Tavern which was built previous to 1829. It was used as a hostelry under several different managements until it burned, in 1888.

Templeton Center was a very busy place during the stage coach days as it was the focal point for several stage lines. This old hotel gave place to the new Templeton Inn, built and given to the Village Improvement Society by Moses W. Richardson in 1900.

The present parsonage on the common is an interesting house. It stands beside the Congregational Church edifice and reminds one very much of the old southern ante-bellum homes with its tall white columns across the front. It was built by John Boynton although never occupied by him. It finally came into the possession of David Whitcomb who made it his home for some time. Later Dr. Shattuck of Boston purchased the house as a home for his two sisters who lived there for many years. After their death, it was given to the Congregational Church for a parsonage and is now used by the Federated Church for the same purpose. It has often been noted that on the second story of this building, facing the street, there is a door which opens into vacancy. One wonders why it was placed there. The story goes that Mr. Boynton intended to build a veranda across the upper

story. During the construction of the door an inquisitive individual passing by, said to Mr. Boynton, "I should think you would have to build a veranda in front of the door." This so incensed Mr. Boynton that he vowed he never would build the veranda, which he never did, and the door remains an object of wonder.

One of the fine old homes in Templeton that was used as a tavern in the old stage coach days, was the house now owned and occupied by John Brooks. It was probably built by Lisha French before 1830, and was the home of Hon. Lovell Walker for some time.

In 1847, we find it belonged to John W. Work, who resided there for many years. Mr. Work owned at that time all the land east of the common from the Athol road to the foot of Ladder Hill.

Francis Twichell later purchased the farm and house. During the eighties, Mr. Twichell's daughter, Miss Hattie Twichell, and Miss Delia Damon had a millinery shop in one of the front parlors. For nearly fifty years it has been the home of John Brooks and family. The ell of the house has been remodeled making two apartments.

On the Gardner road, about half a mile from the center, there stands on a little hill, commanding an extensive view in all directions, a two-story, slant roof house. A long enclosed shed joins it to one of the barns. Close to the west side of the house stood for many years a well house with a windlass and rope for raising and lowering the bucket. Within the house, the main rooms are large and high with many sunny windows. As in some of the other houses of its period, there was at one time, a dark bedroom off the kitchen; this was lighted only by a small window of painted glass, opening on the front stairway. This stairway led from a large front

hall, which had no windows except the ground glass in the outside door, but which received considerable light from the upper hall. In the pantry there was, in years past, a cupboard, known as "the cooler", whose shelves were square bars with spaces between, so that the air from the cellar beneath would keep the food in the cupboard cool.

The earliest map of the town in existence, 1831, gives the owner of this property as Ebenezer French, a great-great-grandfather of Grace Blodgett. He probably built the house which originally stood nearer the road.

In 1847, the house was owned by a man named Barrows and at that time contained a museum of rare and beautiful stones and shells, from all parts of the world.

John Work and Frank Twichell at different times owned the property. It was finally purchased by Edwin Sanderson who moved the house back, to its present location.

Leonard Baker was the next owner and lived there with his family from 1881-1897. After his death it was purchased by William Stinson who lived there until he moved to Winchendon. It has been one of the fine farms in this section of the town. During the last few years it has been a dairy farm.

## **BROOKSVILLAGE**

In the west part of the town known as Brooksvillage, formerly called Bowkersville, are many interesting old houses still standing.

The old Rice house, built in the early part of the last century by Stephen Brooks, great-grandfather of John and Edwin Brooks; the brick house built by John Brooks, Sr., and the old Bowker house now occupied by Lester Pease.

At one time Brooksvillage was a thriving little village with several small industries and three taverns.



## BALDWINVILLE

One of the oldest frame houses in Baldwinville is located at the corner of the Athol and Templeton roads. It is a fine old square house with hip roof, built in 1797 by Eden Baldwin, and is well preserved. It was in this house that Christopher Columbus Baldwin, a son of Eden, was born in 1800. Christopher Baldwin became a well-known lawyer and historian of the state.

Between Baldwinville and Otter River, formerly called Jonesville, is the old Fisher farm. The house is a large square building with the customary hip roof. It was built in 1791 by Thomas Fisher. In front of the house is a long row of elm trees on either side of the highway, said to have been planted at the time the house was built, and the farm has always been known as Elm Farm. It is still owned and operated by descendants of the Fisher family.

There were two interesting old homes in Otter River. The house known as the Stone home was built by Leonard Stone in 1780. The first structure was a very small building which is now the ell of the house. The main part of the house was built in the early eighteen hundreds, and is the typical square type with hip roof. This was occupied by the Stone family for many years. It was sold a few years ago.

On the old road between Otter River and Templeton Center known as the Lord Road, near the center of the village of Otter River is the old Kendall Lord Farm. The original house was built about 1778 by Noah Kendall whose daughter married Jeremiah Lord. The house was burned several years ago, but it was long one of the landmarks of the town.

## CHURCH HILL AND NORCROSS HILL

In the northwesterly part of the town are two adjacent hills, known as Church Hill and Norcross Hill where there was a thriving settlement in the early days.

In recent years, the property on Church Hill has been purchased by the state for the Walter E. Fernald State School. There are some interesting old houses located on these hills.

The large square house occupied for many years by I. W. Hutchins, was built about 1771, by Silas Church, for whom the hill was named. It is now on the grounds of the State School. It is a large, well built house, the inside finished in beautiful woodwork with several Christian doors (the paneling arranged in the form of a cross) also recessed windows with small panes. Fireplaces are found in all the rooms. In the center of the house is the famous beehive oven and back of this, with an entrance under the winding stairs, is a hideout which was used during the Indian raids. This is the central house in one of the four colonies of the State School.

Probably the first settler on Norcross Hill was Deacon Daniel Norcross, who built the original Norcross house in the seventeen sixties. It is in a good state of preservation. There is an interesting old chimney in the house, large enough at the base for a small room.

For several generations the Norcross family lived on this hill which bore their name. Deacon Daniel had three grandsons — Asaph, who lived in the old house for many years, and Stillman and Austin who built their own homes.

The Stillman Norcross house was used as a tavern for several years, and was burned later. The Austin Norcross house is still standing.





# Otter River

by

MARY LELAND STONE

## OTTER RIVER

MUCH of the land in the village of Otter River was granted to Simon Stone, an Indian fighter who lived in Groton. In 1690, during an attack by the Indians upon that town, he had been seriously wounded. From Cotton Mather's account of those early days, we learn that "Simon Stone suffered **nine** serious wounds" and was "left for dead" by the Indians when they were driven away by the Americans. "As the men thought to bury him, he was seen to fetch a gasp", and on being given some "Strong Water", opened his eyes. He recovered and lived to be 85 years old, taking part in many other Indian fights. He was one of the men who left Dedham Common in the expedition to drive the Indians from the Narragansett winter quarters or camping grounds. The start was made in a blizzard, and the men were promised a reward of grants of land if they would drive from the country the Indians who were raiding the settlements.

Though the work was well done, it was many years before the allotments were made. But Simon Stone was one of the few who lived long enough to receive the grant in person. As the Indians were threatening to drive the settlers away as late as 1755, none of the new owners cared to locate here for some years. But after 1756, Simon Stone's grandson, Captain Leonard Stone, with his saddle bags strapped to his shoulders, came on foot by blazed-tree trail to the Otter River and fol-

lowed it until he reached his grandfather's grant of land. Here he cleared away the trees and made his home.

The grant east of his land was No. 113 and was sold by Charles Lord's grandfather to Noah Kendall and Aran Kendall who seem to have settled a little earlier, as Captain Stone lived with Aran Kendall until his own house was built. When building his home, he went on horseback to Groton to get the nails which were made there by a blacksmith who hammered them out, one by one, on an anvil.

Aran Kendall lived awhile in a house at the west end of the Stone grant and died when only 31. Captain Leonard Stone was made guardian of his sons and later married his widow. Their good neighbor on the west was Thomas Fisher, an able civil engineer and a very intelligent man who probably did much of the surveying in this locality. The old bounds of the Fisher, Stone and Piper lands could be found meeting where Smith and Day's pond used to be. Thomas Fisher later became the first trial justice appointed in this town.

On the Otter River, where Warfield's Mill now is, William Hunting built a grist mill, and when he later married Captain Stone's daughter and moved to Canada, Captain Stone bought the mill and ran a sawmill there, much lumber being prepared for local building. Later, in 1822, Captain Stone's two sons, Colonel Leonard and Ephraim, found slabs enough at this mill for the Big Load of wood that was taken to the minister.

The families locating here raised most of what they used by keeping cows, sheep, hens, turkeys, geese, etc. They used the feathers as well as the eggs and made fine puffy featherbeds to keep themselves warm in their unheated sleeping rooms. They did not complain if they found a drift of snow resting on the warm blue bedspread when they woke in the



dawn. The wool from the sheep was taken to a small shop near the river where Nathan Smith carded it and made it into rolls ready for the spinning wheels in the homes. To distinguish him from the other Smiths, the boys called him "Wooley" Smith. He lived in the house now owned by Edward LaPorte on the Winchendon road.

The central bridge over the Otter River was built in 1778. In 1787, Edward Cambridge had a small shop near the river where people brought the cloth that had been woven on the looms of the industrious housewives; and in his shop it was "fulled" or thickened and teaseled to give it a nap, after which it was dyed the color called for by the weavers. Yarns for knitting and weaving were often spun and dyed in the homes.

A larger mill, for the making of heavy woolen cloth, was built in 1823 by Samuel Dadmun and William Graham from Rutland, Massachusetts. This building was on the road leading to the Foundry, which road has been discontinued. The business was a success and in 1836 was much enlarged, bringing many people to the village which was then called Dadmundville but which had been known as Factory Village in earlier days.

After some years, three large buildings were added to this mill, but placed on the west side of the river; and the Jones Manufacturing Company carried on successfully, making a fine quality of cloth and nice Rose blankets. Workers came from England and Germany, new homes were built nearby, and the name changed to Jonesville.

In 1833, the Foundry started business, and a small cook-stove was made to make cooking easier than at the fireplaces. The stoves were raised eight or more inches from the floor but were not very deep and would seem very small for use now. But they had the advantage of a fine, boxy stove hearth

where a mass of hot coals could be drawn from the fire box and delicious steaks cooked to a turn. Thomas Parker and his son, Daniel Parker, started this business in 1833, and Otis Warren took charge in 1843. In 1846, Charles Lord, a native of Otter River, started as an apprentice at this foundry and became much interested in the business. In 1856, he and Mr. Gates bought control, and Charles Lord managed the Otter River Foundry, with several partners, during his life. In 1858, William Walker was his partner; in 1871, William Stone and later, Fred Stone. Mr. Lewis and Mr. Kirchner developed and enlarged the business; and many tons of iron were melted and framed into stoves to warm the hearths in hundreds of New England homes.

In 1847, when this village was the most prosperous part of the town, a hotel was erected by J. C. Goldsmith. He also had used a small shop at the foot of the hill for making boxes; and he may have been responsible for planting the lilac bushes that have bloomed there for so many years.

At a location near the Gardner line, where Cooper Sawyer in very early times had built a small shop for the making of chairs, where Mr. Goodnow from Sudbury had run a saw mill and some of the Heywoods had also made chairs, the Frost Company developed a large business making horse blankets, as many horses were needed in those days. This company also took over the mill on the site of the Stone saw mill. Here Ephraim Hancock had run a grist mill which later was operated by Charles Everett. He was one of a family who had lived in a house at the foot of Bell Hill, later owned by Owen Sullivan. The Everett family made sieves and were industrious and successful people. Charles Everett was so unfortunate as to cut off one of his hands at the mill; but he built a house and store near the railroad station and



became station master when the railroad was located here in 1850.

In those days, Otter River was a busy place. There were hundreds of workers in the mills, and the women and children did much work at their homes caning chair seats. The "seating", as it was called, was brought around in carts from the chair shops; and many mothers planned to keep their children occupied much of the time.

The first store in Otter River was built on the west side of Main Street by Samuel Morley. Later this was run by Mr. Osgood, and in 1865, sold to Francis Leland. In an upper room of this building, John Watts carried on tailoring for some time. In 1847, a store and tenement block was built opposite, on the east side of Main Street, by Captain Joseph Davis. This was used by Peter Pierce for some time. His son, Edward, became Judge Pierce of the Supreme Court at Boston.

Captain Charles Davis of Civil War days lived on Pleasant Street in Otter River and was well known in towns about, as he was sheriff for this locality after his return from the Civil War.

The one church in Otter River is the only Catholic Church in Templeton, and was built in 1853 or 1854. The parish at that time included several other towns; and the priest, living here, covered many miles of driving to reach all of his parishioners.

The district schoolhouse of early days was built on the Winchendon road, founded on a rock, where the cinnamon roses grew. This building was far too small in 1860, and a much better schoolhouse was built on the west side of Main Street. Leonard Stone, grandson of Captain Leonard Stone, was active in the construction of this two-room building. Within two years after it was opened, ninety little children



appeared for admission; and the primary teacher had to send nine four-year-olds home, as there were seats for only 81 children. In 1880, the town built an addition of two rooms but used only one at that time. The citizens of the village contributed funds to finish a good hall above the new rooms, providing a place for community gatherings. Church services were held there at times.

It is recalled that one of the early preachers here was later known as the hero of the story, "A Singular Life", by Elizabeth Stuart Phelps. But as many of the families here attended the First Church in Templeton Center, and Baldwinville had two churches, the hall was used more for Village Improvement Society meetings and by the school. It is sad to record that this building was burned on October 3, 1933. The present four-room schoolhouse was built shortly afterward by the town.

In 1881-1882, Francis Leland, after using the old store for years, built a large brick store on the site of the hotel which had burned in 1876; and a few years later, he finished a large hall above the store.

The mills, run by the Jones and Dadmun families so successfully, were taken over by the Synder family. The changes in the tariff and dull times in the woolen business closed these mills later, and the buildings were unused and neglected for a long time. The agent in charge often asked Mr. Leland how much he would give for the property. Not wishing to buy it, Mr. Leland named a small sum, quite beneath the notice of the agent. But taxes were mounting, and within a year or so, the owners notified Mr. Leland and his partner, Lawrence Noonan, that they had accepted the former's offer.

Although they did not wish to own the property, they decided to purchase it and see if some repairs could be made to make it useful to a company that would furnish employ-

ment to village people. A carload of shingles, new sills in the dam and other repairs made it serviceable to a firm of paper manufacturers, the O'Brien Brothers — four of them — from New Jersey. This was in 1906.

In a few years, when they had added some brick engine rooms and were using the wooden buildings for storing large amounts of waste paper for making paper board, the buildings were struck by lightning. The three large sections of four or five stories each were burning at the same time and could not be saved. When flames were bursting from the whole structure, the bell in the cupola began swinging and ringing and fell, while tolling, with the crash of the building. The O'Brien firm soon built a brick mill on the same site which survived the 1938 flood and hurricane.

While the mills were prospering, the Fitchburg Railroad maintained an Otter River station. (At the time of the Civil War, our Templeton soldiers left from there — a full company.) But after seventy-five years or more, the Boston and Maine managers discontinued it, as the "stop" was so near the station at Baldwinville, and the brick station was removed.

A postoffice was established here in 1869. For many years the postage paid on repair parts sent out by the Lord and Stone Foundry helped make the 4th grade postoffice salary worth while. When the stove business was no longer in operation, no one cared to be postmaster and on May 30, 1942, the postoffice was given up and rural delivery established.

The Otter River Brickyard received its death blow at the time of the 1938 hurricane. This yard was earlier managed by Horatio Nelson Dyer and his son, Charles, and was well known for the fine quality of brick made. When Charles Dyer later went to Greenfield to carry on the same kind of work there, Charles Leathe successfully continued the business here. But the run of clay in the valley had diminished, and

when the sheds were destroyed in 1938, little more was done in the local yard.

Also, during the 1938 hurricane, many of the old dams, constructed by enterprising business men of former days, for water-power to run mills, were washed away; and floods came rushing along the river, destroying twelve bridges within a mile of the village of Otter River. As we now have the use of electric power brought from the falls of the Connecticut River, the unused dams have been neglected, and few of them will be rebuilt. However, the bridges have been rebuilt and improved, and manufacturing can be carried on successfully.

The family of Fred Stone gave a large portion of their share of the "Stone land" for a playground at the local schoolhouse. W. P. A. funds were spent on filling and grading; and it is hoped that the town will maintain this as a safe place for children to play. The small grounds east of the schoolhouse are too near the highway.

It is now almost 200 years since Deacon Simon Stone's descendants settled upon his land grant; and many others have located their homes upon it. Some of the Stones still remain, however, and run the lawn mower and cultivator, if nothing else.





# Baldwinville

## Contributors:

Elizabeth Wellington Lord

Charlotte Ward

Mary Bradish Putnam

Lorey A. Tourtellot

L. Clifford Day

## YANKEE VILLAGE

### THE RIVER

L. Clifford Day

TWO mountains, both solitary monadnocks in form, one Wachusett, the other Monadnock by name, stand facing each other across miles of beautiful wooded hill-and-valley country in the heart of New England. Almost exactly midway between the two, quite concealed by foliage and close-ranging hills, flows the Otter River.

The first waters of the Otter rise near Wachusett, but the parent stream and all its branches flow northwestward, as if determined to attempt the impossible climb to the higher Monadnock. A barrier of glacial hills soon blocks the way, however, and the river is forced sharply to the westward to join the larger Millers, where it must be content simply to mingle with much diluted Monadnock waters.

For ages the Otter flowed unmolested, now racing swiftly by thickly forested banks, now lazily meandering through a rush-choked meadow. The Indians preferred deeper streams, while early settlers avoided the hazards of the lower ground, except to fish. Finally, a generation of hard-headed mechanics, without need to worry for their scalps, and thinking less of fish and more of machinery and profits, saw power in the swift-moving water near the narrow westward bend of the river. Presently dams and water-mills appeared, and the Village, with its Main Street, was born.

\* \* \* \* \*

Before 1830, there were comparatively few inhabitants in this section of the town, scarcely enough to call it a village.



From an article written by Albert Bryant, we learn that it was first called Bucketborough, and then North Templeton. Even after it was given the name of Baldwinville, the residents of Otter River for some time continued to call it "the North".

In those early days there were no stores, no gristmill and no tannery in Otter River Village; consequently the inhabitants went to "the North" to transact business, even to having their shoes repaired by Joseph Addison. Charles S. Lord, in an article which he wrote, relates that he made many trips to this shoe-maker's shop when a young lad. "It was the custom then to have the skins for the shoes tanned on shares. Each farmer had his sole leather, both calfskin and cowhide, and this was kept at the shoemaker's, and when shoes were needed the owner furnished the stock and the shoemaker charged for the labor. Mr. Addison was an honest man and charged one hundred cents on the dollar. He was not a 'saver of souls, but a maker of soles'.

Near Mr. Addison's shop lived one of the most eccentric characters of the town — Nathan Merriam. He was neither M.D., nor D.D., but the appellation of "Dr." was given him because of the multitude of things he was interested in, both wordly and spiritual. He was a chair-maker and peddled his own chairs. In his shop he kept small wares for sale. He attended all the auctions and consequently stored up a great quantity of old stuff among which one could usually find any needed article. Theology was Nathan Merriam's strong point and every one but "Dr." Merriam himself was on the wrong track!"

Inventors and contributors to the early history of Baldwinville have been mentioned in the "Story of Templeton."

One of the first settlers was Jonathan Baldwin who came from Spencer, Massachusetts, in the year 1767. He acquired

large tracts of land and built a saw-and gristmill. He was the first justice of the peace in the town and executed many deeds. He represented the town in the General Court in 1774-75. After his death, in 1792, he was succeeded in business by his son, Captain Eden Baldwin, who later became owner of a lumber yard and a brick yard.

The present name was given to the village in the year 1830, in recognition of the public spirit manifested by both father and son. The postoffice was established then, and this north section of the town was recorded as Baldwinville.

Jonathan Baldwin first lived in a little house on South Main Street, corner of Cottage Street, which is now the ell of the house occupied by Thomas Symons. In 1797, Captain Eden Baldwin built the large house now standing at the junction of the Athol and Templeton roads. On August 1, 1800, his son was born and was given the name of Christopher Columbus Baldwin. He was educated at Leicester Academy and Harvard College, studied law in Worcester with Governor John Davis and Charles Allen, and was admitted to the bar in October, 1826. He practiced law in Barre and, for a short time, in Sutton.

Later, he became interested in genealogical and historical study, in preference to the law. In October, 1827, he was elected to membership in the American Antiquarian Society of Worcester and in April, 1832, was chosen librarian, a position he retained until his death. Mr. Baldwin also became editor of the *National Aegis*, a Worcester paper, and wrote articles for other publications. On his journey west to make investigations for the American Antiquarian Society, the stage in which he was traveling overturned, and he was instantly killed. This was on August 20, 1835, at Norwich, Ohio, where he was buried.

Our village to the north has reason to be proud of these distinguished men by the name of Baldwin.

After the postoffice was established, the village grew, more houses were built and business prospered. Because of the fact that the Fitzwilliam turnpike passed through Baldwinville, places were needed for the entertainment of travelers. Captain Eden Baldwin kept a tavern in a house, later owned by Albert Bryant, on the corner of South Main and Maple Streets.

In 1832, Captain Joseph Davis, the first postmaster, built the hotel now known as Narragansett House. Captain Davis was very popular as a landlord and served for five years, when he was succeeded by his son-in-law, Frank Ray. Several different proprietors followed until 1870, when George Partridge bought the hotel and ran it successfully for twenty years.

The hotel originally was one of those high, pointed-roofed buildings, two or three stories higher than the present structure. In 1871, March 6th, it was partially destroyed by fire. The Lee & Stearns hat shop gave the alarm, and Baldwinville and Otter River fire companies responded to the call. It was six below zero that day. The hand engine was first worked by one crew and then by the other, for the pumping must go on continuously; there could be no pause or the water would freeze in the hose. George Grafton was frozen to the ladder on which he was standing, holding the hose. He had to be chopped down, taken to the fire room at the hat shop, given stimulants and thawed out. After the fire, the hotel was repaired and rebuilt. In 1876, Mr. Partridge engaged Lysander Bronsdon, contractor and builder, to construct the ell containing the dining room.

In the early days, the hotel was a popular place for sleighing and school parties. Many owners succeeded Mr. Partridge, and at the present time the hotel is run by A. Cioci and J. Fagnali.



## STORIES OF THE EARLY DAYS

Mary Bradish Putnam

Our ancestors lived much as all New England colonists did, but not as we do now. Furniture and some dishes were home-made. For kitchen tables the first settlers used boards, set upon carpenter's horses, at which all the family could eat at one time. After the meal, the boards were taken off and placed against the wall. Large trenchers used as platters, and small ones used as plates, were made from thick pieces of plank. Most families had no china, and only the well-to-do had pewter dishes and drinking cups — ordinary people used mugs made of leather.

Beds were so high that old people needed steps in order to climb into them. The trundle bed was made to slide under the large bed.

In a book entitled "The Way Our People Lived", by W. E. Woodward, was found this item: "One product of the carpenter's shop was 'the cistern'. It looked like our modern water cooler, without a faucet. Sometimes it was actually used to hold water, but its ordinary purpose was to hold beer or cider, the customary household beverages. Water was regarded with deep suspicion, both in England and the colonies. Beer and cider were given even to small children with their meals. Nevertheless, water as a beverage was being tried out timidly during the Puritan period.

There was a rumor that Governor Winthrop drank water daily and by preference, but this rumor was not generally believed. Milk was not considered much better, though some few men who kept cows drank it and gave it to their children, but many never used milk. They only kept cows to raise oxen to do the work."

C. C. Baldwin, as late as 1835, wrote that when his nephew

came to Worcester to attend school he would have sent him to the Academy, except that they allowed their students no tea, coffee or milk. He thought this was too strict.

In the early days, all produce and lumber that was to be sold in Worcester or Boston had to be taken over the road by ox-team, and all livestock was driven over these same roads.

Mr. Harwood said his father, when a boy, and his grandfather often went into Vermont to buy turkeys. They drove them over the road, and all would go well until late afternoon when one old turkey would go sailing up into the tallest tree, and in half a minute the air would be full of turkeys; then the trees would be full of turkeys, and there was absolutely nothing that the man and boy could do except eat supper and roll up in blankets for the night. There was no way to get those turkeys down until the sun came up next morning.

When the first settlers came, wild turkeys were very plentiful and in the fall, when the weather was cold, but before the snow came, the young men went on a "turkey hunt". They shot, dressed and froze a large number for winter use. As there were no refrigerators in this period, the meat was carefully wrapped in cotton cloth — generally an old sheet — and then hung in the well; if possible an abandoned well was used because the level of the water did not fluctuate.

In these days of strikes, demands for higher wages, and more strikes, the story of Hannah Norcross seems remarkable.

A family named Maynard lived a short distance below the Brown Tavern on Baptist Common, and one year, as Mrs. Maynard was ill during haying time and could not do the work, Hannah Norcross was asked if she would come and "help out". As there were no mowing machines then, all the men of the neighborhood worked on one farm at a time, cutting the hay by hand and after it was dry, storing it in the

barns; then all hands moved to the next farm. There were five men at the Maynard's that year, and Hannah prepared their meals, baked the bread, churned the butter, took care of Mrs. Maynard, and every afternoon went up into the hot attic to spin and weave. She was very good "help" and a good cook; and, because she did so much spinning, they gave her extra pay, seventy-five cents per week!

In cases of sickness some elderly woman, whose children were grown, was willing to come to care for the patient and help with the housework. Such a woman was Sarah Stockwell, widow of Simon Stockwell, who lived in the Neal District of Royalston. When the snow was deep, her mode of transportation was a homemade hand-sled, big and roomy, on which she could be tucked up in blankets and be reasonably comfortable; but she always carried a blazing pine knot to keep away the wolves.

In the little white house just above the Deacon Addison house in Baldwinville, lived a family named Sawyer; Elisha, his wife, and crippled son, Emory. The boy never walked after he was ten years old, except on crutches, and not too well then, but he was determined not to be a burden. There were not many things a man could do in those days aside from physical labor, but the boy thought he could be a lawyer, so he asked Lawyer Cady if he could go to his office and study.

Mr. Cady was glad to help him, and so every day this young aspirant came down across the railroad tracks in a wagon made by his father and drawn by his big Newfoundland dog for which his father had made a harness. Mr. Cady's office was where the Baldwinville postoffice now stands. When Emory reached that point, he got out of the wagon, tied the reins around the whip, and said: "Go home, Major", and Major went home. Mother unharnessed him and he was free until it was time for the young man to return. Then



Mother went out, whistled, put on the dog's harness, and he went down and waited for his passenger.

Emory Sawyer became a successful lawyer and practised in Warren.

## MAIN STREET

### L. Clifford Day

After many years of slow, thrifty growth, the village came into the full bloom of its activity at the turn of the century. It left the gay nineties (which the local businessmen, struggling against the Panic, hadn't always found so gay!) with high courage for the new century ahead. The spirit of progress was in the air. A new local weekly newspaper named itself "Progress" with an emphatic capital "P". But it was to be a slow, agreeable sort of progress which would discommoded nobody. The mills were busy, the stores well-stocked and the small white cottage homes freshly painted. Peace, prosperity and comfortable living all seemed so certain and enduring.

The simple first decade of the century found the village with Main Street grown into North and South Main, and an important Central Street lined by store "blocks", with lodge halls overhead; also there was a bank building, all in homely but substantial style, and all in wood except the bank, which had been dressed up in red brick and stone in the sombre style of the eighties.

Facing the village green, but rambling around a corner onto another street away from the stores, was the three-story, mansarded Narragansett House. There was one sprawling livery stable at its rear and another across the side street, so there was ample provender and rest for beast as well as man. A murky well furnished drink for the horses, while most travelers gave the password for something more invigorating and less likely to cause typhoid.

Between the Narragansett House and the river, crowded almost over the water's edge, was old Union Hall. Here in winter, home talent, reveling in melodrama, appeared in a contrasting procession of city slickers and country bumpkins; bold, over-dressed young ladies from town and shy, overgrown pigtailed heroines from the farm; bluff, heartless sheriffs and mortgage-haunted old folks bowed down with care. More novel were the occasional black-faced minstrels, with their sharp-tongued endmen whose barbs made even the most eminent citizens in the audience squirm.

A whole generation of small boys grew up firmly believing that the grandest performance of "Robin Hood" ever given anywhere was played on the boards of Union Hall! The same generation was dazzled by a frilled and highly starched bevy of older sisters in the "Floradora Girls". Though a little too young to be fully appreciative, the boys nevertheless had a vague notion that they had seen another all-time peak of performance.

Sometimes a shabby-genteel outsider came in with a Punch and Judy show, or a marvelous glass-blowing exhibit, or a bit of sleight-of-hand, to hold his youthful audience spellbound. And on one memorable occasion, a real "Uncle Tom's Cabin" troupe appeared, with Topsy, Little Eva, the bloodhounds (or was it just one plain friendly hound?) and all the frayed paraphernalia of a small-town road show. For months thereafter, barn lofts and vacant lots echoed to the shouts and screams of this epic melodrama.

## **FIRE!**

Steamer Number One, a gay-ninety creation of shining brass and nickel and brilliant red paint, was housed on the street floor of Union Hall. Seen through a side window, Steamer Number One and its gleaming red-and-gold com-

panion, Hose Number Four, with their wagon-tongues pointed straight toward the street, both looked tense and alert as if ready to dash forth of their own accord with the first sound of bell or whistle. But alas! it often happened that the last echo of the alarm had long since died away before a handful of breathless volunteers could get the steamer out and backed to the riverbank, with flames and smoke of a freshly kindled fire belching forth from its stack.

Meantime, Hose Number Four awaited the coming of the nearest pair of work horses, which might have been busily engaged a half-mile or more away; at night the driver might have been sound asleep at home another half-mile away. And sometimes a second pair of horses had to be found to take the steamer itself to a distant part of the village, there to make its stand at some other riverbank or beside a small pool or reservoir.

Cynical villagers used to boast that Steamer Number One was a marvel at saving cellar holes, but that really was an exaggeration, as many a grateful home owner could testify. The steamer could hardly be blamed for its slow start, and once its steam was up and the engineer had give a warning "toot-toot" on its squeaky whistle, it delivered a stream deadly to both fire and the novice hoseman who struggled to control the nozzle. As it warmed into action and the whole engine sizzled and throbbed, timid citizens watched its safety-valve closely, more fearful of a possible explosion than of the conflagration itself; but old Number One kept sizzling and throbbing long and honorably until at last it was peacefully retired to the junk yard.

## VILLAGE SMITHY

Across the street from Union Hall, and also half perched over the edge of the river, was the village smithy, a low rangy



building, grim and bare, quite without a saving chestnut tree, but a perennial center of childhood interest, nevertheless. Mr. Ellis, the blacksmith, was of rather small build, but any mischievous boy unwisely trying his patience quickly learned that a mighty man can live in a small body.

It was Mr. Ellis who brought the first gasoline engine into town, to use as a power plant for his workshop. A decidedly unpopular newcomer it proved to be, for its unmuffled exhaust projected from the river side of the building and its ear-splitting, one-cylinder "bang-bang-bang" echoed over the water from one end of town to the other. Horses jumped, men cursed, and mothers of napping children wished Mr. Ellis in perdition. Fortunately for the villagers, and perhaps for Mr. Ellis too, the workshop was used only a few hours a week.

## AWHEEL AND AFOOT

The village was the junction point of two railroads, a busy two-tracked main line and a much less busy single-tracked branch, affectionately labeled the "Huckleberry". Tradition had it that bored travelers had once been able to liven their journey by getting out to pick berries alongside the coaches, as the old diamond-stacked engine chugged slowly up the steep grades.

The railroad-building generation had had great expectations, especially when they saw two lines converging on the village to make it a junction. But somehow the great expectations never materialized, and the village did not become a teeming metropolis. One could have also said of the village what a later boasting wag said of his home town: "It's as large as New York, but it hasn't been built up yet".

Nevertheless, the railroad station was a vital center of business activity and sociability; and the old Vermont & Massa-

chusetts line long provided a service to and from Boston which far excelled anything offered in recent years.

But though the railroad was such an important link with the outer world, the passenger coach in ordinary life played second fiddle to the horse and buggy. Everyone who could afford it, and a few who couldn't, owned a horse and some kind of vehicle, while two or three families boasted a "span of horses" harnessed to a glittering "double carriage". Wheels disappeared and sleigh bells rang merrily for a few crisp weeks in winter.

The horse and carriage still ruled supreme in the early-century scene, but this supremacy had already been challenged by the bicycle. A summer of inter-village cycle races had the horse-racing gentry worried. Modern-minded young people were beginning to prefer tandems to buggies and long, grueling Sunday tours to restful all-day picnics at the end of a short drive. And on one boisterous, fateful day a trolley car came grinding and clanging its dusty way into Central Street.

Sidewalks were the exception rather than the rule in the village, and the streets alternated between dust and mud until a long-rumored State road brought a streak of macadam through the center. Snow lay where it fell in winter, there to be packed into ice by the traffic of sleighs and sleds.

The darkness that was Egypt's still reigned in the streets after the twilight hour, except on clear moonlit nights. Youth trusted to luck and more resilient bones, while oldsters carried spluttering lanterns, or more often wisely stayed at home. It was far safer to sit by the fire for a family game of whist or bezique. More reckless, outside diversions must await the full of the moon. A few widely scattered, public-spirited citizens had private lamp posts in front of their homes—even as once did old Ben Franklin—where smoky oil lamps flickered dimly through the long winter evenings.



## TREE AND ROOFTREE

There were a few old homes, somewhat in the Colonial style, relics of a long-past day when upward-sloping farm acres lay back of them. The new mercantile generation had built a number of two-and-a-half story, hip-roof homes usually with an ell, sometimes also with a barn attached. A few of these newer homes were quite pretentious, but all, both large and small, obviously had been planned and built by practical carpenters, often with a flair for scrolls and turnings.

The more prosperous citizens, not yet knowing the roar of motor traffic, chose their house lots as near Main Street as possible, so as to have church, school and postoffice all within a stone's throw. Farther back, were many modest cottage homes owned by thrifty, skilled mill workers. And there were scattered "rents" to be found upon almost any street, ranging all the way from an ambitious but severely plain four-apartment, two-story brick block — it was always called the "brick block" to run-down little cottages appearing unexpectedly and uncomfortably near better-kept homes.

The older parts of the village could boast many fine shade trees, chiefly elms and sugar maples. Most of the trees were in rows, obviously planted, but a few especially rugged specimens, causing awkward crooks in the street or appearing plump in the middle of a sidewalk, were just as they had sprouted in the original forest. The newer streets were still bleak and bare, except here and there where some high-pressure nurseryman had left a yard full of languishing exotic shrubs ill-adapted to the severity of the local climate. The simple decade was inclined to look to the green hill far away; an appreciation of New England's own vegetation was not to come until a later day when antiques and all things native, including trees, were again to be the fashion.



For many years, even the village green or "common", unlike the commons of the older hill towns, remained barren, except for an uncertain cover of ill-nourished, self-sown grass. However, in the middle nineties, a sensitive, esthetic young Doctor Baker made a planting of native elms along its sides. These trees remained unappreciated for many years, but a later generation was to bless the young man (who left life while still young) for his unselfish foresight.

### STEEPLES

Upon higher ground above the village green, discreetly removed from the turmoil of the busy lower street, was located a fine old clapboarded church with classic pillars in front and a tall, slender steeple topped by a delicately filigreed golden weather-vane. The steeple gave shelter to the four-faced town clock that harshly pealed forth its hours on a bell which had been cracked since no one knew when. The same bell slowly tolled the Sunday church call, and upon occasion frantically gave the village fire alarm. The old church looked solid and contented enough, as if it had been there always; yet the truth of it was that it had been in at least two other locations and had traveled several miles hither and yon before its early parishioners could agree upon a proper site for it.

An insurgent later generation had built a second church nearby, on lower ground, close upon one side of the green. This was a larger, more elaborate, roofy structure in the English style. There was a kind of abbreviated steeple, or bell-tower, rising only slightly above the roof-peak. Later a special niche had been added to house a resplendent organ with huge gold and silver pipes. The seats here were roomier and softer (and the pew rental higher) than in the old church, but the attendance lagged here, too, after the novelty had worn off.

Now and then a discontented parishioner changed his allegiance from one church to the other; but in general each parish was loyal to its own, each thought its building better, its pastor more eloquent, and its own way to salvation surer.

\* \* \* \* \*

Baldwinville, like other sections of the town, has its scenic parts: Norcross Hill, Church Hill, and the location of the Hospital Cottages are some of them.

On Church Hill is one of the first farm houses built in the town. It was erected by Silas Church, for whom the hill was named, and was later occupied by the Hutchins family. The house is now the center one of the four colonies which form the institution known as the Walter E. Fernald State School — Templeton Colony. These four colonies are named Farm House, Brooks House, Eliot House and Narragansett House. Dr. Fernald bought this property in the year 1900, May 19th, and remained there twenty-four years. After his death, Dr. Ransom H. Green became the visiting doctor.

The estate is a large one containing 2,238 acres. At the present time (1946) there are three hundred inmates: those committed to the institution remain until they go out on parole. The entire colony can accommodate three hundred and twenty.

In 1903, Charles W. Hansel came to the Colony as head farmer and remained 42 years. Through his guidance and leadership, marvelous work has been accomplished in cultivating the land and producing rich harvests. Mr. Hansel gave his best to the men of the Colony, and they served him faithfully.

Irving Ashford is now in charge of this work, and Dr. M. J. Farrel is the head of the School.

The companion hill, named for the Norcross family, has sent from its midst people of distinction, even two missionaries to Turkey, Rev. William Goodell and Roseltha Norcross.

The story of the Hospital Cottages, located on another slightly elevation, has been written by Mrs. Edwin St. John Ward. (1945)

## THE HOSPITAL COTTAGES FOR CHILDREN, BALDWINVILLE

In the northeast corner of the Town of Templeton is a children's hospital which for many years of its history was described as a "unique institution". Set on a hillside above the village of Baldwinville, it is seen as a group of buildings, no longer new, which house the present-day beneficiaries of the eager, far-reaching dream of one of the town's own sons. Unique it certainly was in its early days, for, so far as known, it was the only institution providing both medical care and schooling for its children-patients. It was the second hospital in Massachusetts founded especially for the care of diseased children, the first being the Children's Hospital in Boston; and it was the first in the entire country to give particular attention to cases of epilepsy among children. That was during the superintendency of Dr. Everett Flood, who was greatly interested in the institutional treatment of that disease and went on from the Hospital Cottages to become the first superintendent of the State Hospital for Epilepsy at Monson, after twelve years of very efficient and devoted service here.

The founder of the Hospital Cottages for Children was Lucius Willard Baker, son of Deacon Willard Baker of Baldwinville. He attended Wilbraham Academy after going through the schools of the village, and then studied with Dr.



Ira Russell in Winchendon, with a view to entering upon a medical career. His studies were continued at a New York City school of medicine, and it was during this period of service at the Bellevue Dispensary that he became convinced that his patients, especially the children, could recover from their ailments far more rapidly in good country air and environment than they possibly could in the crowded tenements and streets of a big city.

Speaking at the observance of the twentieth anniversary of the institution of which he was the originator, he "noted the need of special treatment, under proper conditions, for children afflicted with hip, knee, spinal and wasting diseases of childhood. However complete might be the equipment of an institution for this work in the city, it could not do the work of an institution situated in a quiet, healthful country place... Country air was best in such cases". On returning to Templeton, he was interested in working through an Orphan's Home, so-called, at Lake Denison, where "the Country Week movement, through his solicitation, brought sick children from the city and cared for them during the summer".

In this work and in his dream of further efforts for underprivileged children, he had the hearty support of his father, and in 1880 and 1881 they succeeded in obtaining the backing of a large number of their friends in the establishment of a year-round hospital and home for children. Having as sponsors for the new enterprise many influential men—clergymen, medical men, educators and business men—throughout the State, with Deacon Baker himself responsible for the provision of two houses on Pleasant Street in Baldwinville, which became its first home, the institution opened with formal exercises on June 17, 1882, and was incorporated in December of the same year.

Dr. Baker had received his idea of a cottage hospital from the English Cottage Hospital Houses. On June 15th, only a few days before his hospital was publicly opened, he read a paper before the Massachusetts Medical Society entitled "Cottage Hospitals" which told how the system had developed in England. He outlined his thought as to its benefits for this country as well. "These hospital cottages", he says, "will provide homes, under the best hygienic conditions, throughout the year, where chronic and incurable cases of disease among children can receive medical treatment, together with such educational, industrial and mental training as may be necessary to meet the requirements of each patient. By this method, much can be accomplished in the way of fitting them to occupy positions in after-life and in many instances prevent their becoming crippled burdens upon society." And he added, concerning his own venture, "Hospital accommodations in the country are here provided under good hygienic conditions, where children from the city or elsewhere, suffering from chronic diseases, may receive medical care and careful nursing, together with all the advantages of fresh air, sunlight, and good food which country life affords. It is designed to be a charitable institution, after the English cottage hospital system, which shall take even the poorest child that can be found, and at the same time foster self-support by welcoming a return, however small, from the relatives or guardians of the little patients, more substantial returns to be expected according as the patient's friends have ability to pay."

When the Hospital Cottages were opened on that June day in 1882, there were only two patients on hand. But rapidly more came in, and the list of applicants soon reached over two hundred and fifty, when only a fourth of that number could be cared for. As early as 1887, a third building was felt necessary, and this was erected alongside the two on Pleasant Street.



The three houses on Pleasant Street had carried out Dr. Baker's idea of small cottages, presided over by matrons and attendants, where the children could live as nearly as possible a normal home life, go to school regularly and have treatment for their differing diseases. As the number of applicants increased, it came to be more and more realized that the center of a village was hardly the place for these child-patients; they needed room for recreation; the older boys would benefit from work on a farm; and the institution should be able to expand its quarters for the many who were seeking help. By 1890, a large tract of land was acquired which contained a farm and farm buildings, situated on the northern boundary of the town. There three large buildings took shape, were dedicated in June with impressive ceremonies and occupied in December. The new buildings erected with state aid scarcely carried out the Cottage Hospital idea; but in all essential respects the institution has preserved the originator's dream of a hospital, home and school for underprivileged children and has kept the name of Hospital Cottages for Children as in the old location.

The institution has grown in acreage from the small amount of land held in the village to four hundred sixty-nine acres at the present site by the gift or purchase of adjoining farm or wood lots, both in the town of Templeton and the adjacent town of Winchendon; in endowment up to over three hundred nine thousand dollars (\$309,000) in funds; and in the value of the plant up to over three hundred sixty-three thousand dollars \$(363,000). Two more buildings were added within the next ten years to the original three on the hillside, one for wards and playrooms, and one to house the school, and several smaller ones as proved necessary. In later years, facilities for more adequate care of the patients have been added — equipment for surgical work, an X-Ray outfit,



physiotherapy and occupational therapy, manual training equipment, and an outdoor swimming pool which gives both great benefit and pleasure to patients and workers alike. The capacity has varied with the exigencies of the years. During Dr. Hartstein Page's administration, the number of patients rose as high as one hundred forty and necessitated the employment of two assistant doctors besides himself. In World War II, the number fell much below the average, chiefly because of the lack of nurses and attendants to care for a large number. The damage caused by the famous hurricane of 1938, which took a sad toll of the big trees on the hospital property and injured both buildings and grounds, was, after all, slight in comparison with that accruing from war shortages and difficulties.

Through the years, there has been carried on a much needed service for the children of the Commonwealth and for their parents and families who have been appreciative and grateful for the thoughtful care given to their handicapped sons and daughters. This service has been made possible because the Hospital Cottages have been supported not alone by payment for board and care, but by the gifts and contributions of many kinds from people in all parts of the state and outside. At several points in its history, grants in aid have been made by the State Legislature for expenses or for building, the state has appointed a small proportion of its trustees; and patients have been sent by two of the state departments and cared for at rates considerably lower than cost. But it is not a state-controlled institution, and it is now some forty years since the latest grant in aid was made. Two women's organizations have been particularly effective and faithful in raising funds and soliciting gifts. The Boston Ladies' Committee was working as early as 1886, while the "Lady Board of Visitors", later called the "Lady Board" and still later the "Woman's

Board", must have been helping almost as soon as the doors were opened; for the names of that first "Lady Board of Visitors" is given in the 1883 report. The Hospital Cottages for Children could not have been maintained but for the help of the many individuals who believed in the work it was trying to do and were willing to support it in a great many different ways. Several of those mentioned as helpers in the early records have descendants who are loyally furthering the welfare of the institution as did their fathers and mothers.

It is interesting to read, in the early reports, of the various contributions made by generous-minded townspeople. Possibly the most influential promoter of the infant project was J. Wyeth Coolidge, who was one of Dr. Baker's personal friends. He had come to town after an active business career to recuperate from a breakdown, and took up the plan of his friend enthusiastically. With his wide acquaintance throughout the state he made many friends for the institution and himself gave largely of time and money to start it and to carry it smoothly forward. Several of the townspeople became incorporators when incorporation was sought in the very first year, and their names appear again and again in the records of the business of the early years—C. A. Perley, Gilman Waite, O. D. Sawin, Asa Hosmer, H. M. Small (later H. S. Morley), George Brooks, and the Bakers, father and son. These latter two were made by a grateful corporation President Emeritus for Life, and Medical Superintendent Emeritus for Life, respectively. Francis Leland was not only on the corporation, but served for many years as its Secretary, and Mr. Small (or Mr. Morley) had over fifty years of service to his credit, many of them as President of the Board of Trustees. Deacon N. K. Lord of Otter River and his wife were bountiful givers, and the apples and potatoes they contributed to the Cottages must have been a great help in the feeding of the



children. Some of the items of the records show the neighborly spirit: "Mrs. Philenia Baldwin, a little quilt finished by her on her 87th birthday, Nov. 18, 1885"; "Wallace & Hawkes, painters, 1884, painting on the inside of the buildings to the amount of \$5 worth"; "L. E. Turner, \$2 worth of work additional"; etc. The names of some of the helpful women of the town appear over and over, in the records — Mrs. Abiathur Fales of East Templeton, Miss Hattie Twichell and Miss Maria Cutting of Templeton, for instance; and many others would doubtless have appeared had not the annual reports soon been cut down to the least possible space and many interesting details omitted in the need to economize.

When the account of the exercises accompanying the opening of the buildings on the new hillside site says that "twelve hundred people were present for luncheon", it is not difficult to surmise that a great deal of the preparation and the serving was done by the women of the town, as indeed has been true through the years at every "June Fair" of the Woman's Board.

The report of the Superintendent in 1891 makes note of the fact that much of the great amount of grading necessary around the new buildings was accomplished with the aid of men of the region who gave twenty days of work with teams and men to smooth the surfaces and lay out the roads. A steady succession of girls and men from the town have had periods of service at the hospital, in dining-room and kitchen, in wards or in the engine-room; and some of the "hospital family" have made themselves a real part of the town's life. Now and then it has been possible for the hospital to perform some service for the town and its people. In World War II, the staff helped in the Civilian Defense organization and other war-time projects, such as the training of a Nurses' Aide Class. In the time of almost impossible nursing conditions, when workers were hard to find or to keep, several of the women of



the town volunteered their help with the nursing, as they had with the canning of the fruit and vegetables from the Hospital Farm, several years earlier. A large number of them belong to the Woman's Board and are ready to further its special prospects in the upkeep of the school, the payment of the salaries of the teachers, and the maintenance of free beds for children from whom no payment can be asked. Several have helped with the work of the Girl Scout troop which has been intermittently possible among the girl patients; and these have come to know, as perhaps few others can, the worth of the service which the hospital is rendering for the physical rehabilitation and the mental and moral training of those committed to its care.

### OTHER CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

In "A Sketch of Journalism" by R. William Waterman, it is stated that the Worcester West Chronicle was started in Barre in January, 1866, and removed to Athol in November, 1866, under the same proprietor, R. William Waterman. The publication of the Templeton Recorder began in January, 1882, and continued for several years.

"The Cottager" was established as a monthly paper by J. W. Coolidge in 1882, in the interest of the Hospital Cottages. It was printed in Athol at the office of C. A. J. Waterman, son and co-partner of R. William Waterman. The subscription price was fifty cents per year. In 1885, "The Cottager's" name was changed and a new company formed. The paper was then called "Cottager and Ready Record", with Mr. Coolidge as editor, Waterman as printer and W. H. Brock, general manager. In 1890, it dissolved its connection with the hospital and became an independent enterprise. This was largely because the Woman's Board of the Hospital Cottages had established "The Cottage Friend", printed in Worcester, as its official organ of the hospital.

Two other papers have since been published in Baldwinville, but they were of short duration.

The Baldwinville Woman's Club, organized in 1899, has influenced greatly the cultural life of the village, ever active in philanthropic work. In 1918, it helped finance the building of Fraternity Hall and has always contributed toward the improvement of the village. It has ever taken an interest in the Hospital Cottages for Children and has been especially helpful in the Scout work there.

Years ago, before the buildings were erected on the land between Elm and Circle streets, that plot was known as the Upper Common, and all the trees around it were set out by M. A. Wilson; the trees around the Lower Common by Dr. Lucius Baker. The trees along the sidewalk on School Street hill were set out in memory of the boys who made the supreme sacrifice in World War I. The trees on the state road leading to Otter River were planted by William and Wyman Stone and Francis Leland.

The Hollyhock Garden Club of Baldwinville was organized July 6, 1930. It has carried on its projects quietly, but efficiently; one of the first was accomplished during the presidency of Mrs. A. B. Harwood — planning, grading and planting what is known as the Upper Common, and the Club has been responsible for its care ever since. Through the efforts of Mrs. Caroline Forbes, attractive planting of evergreens and a hedge fence around the library building have been made.

The Club's most recent project is the establishment of a Town Forest, under the leadership of Mrs. John D. Stevens (Edith Nichols Stevens). In 1945, on town land in East Templeton, ten thousand small pines were planted, and that same year, three thousand trees were planted back of the athletic field in Baldwinville.

This Club is affiliated as a member of the Massachusetts Federation of Garden Clubs.

Great credit should be given to the leaders of the Boy and Girl Scouts for their excellent work, thus helping the young people to become loyal and patriotic citizens.

## FLOOD AND HURRICANE

Lorey A. Tourtellot

About 6:00 a.m. September 21, 1938, the New England states experienced the most disastrous flood and hurricane in their history. Templeton suffered a loss of over a million dollars. All dams were washed away, and the ponds and reservoirs were drained, leaving but a small stream of water running through them. All the factories along the Otter River were severely damaged and their basements flooded. When the dam at the Bourn, Hadley & Fairbanks Company's pond gave way, the amount of water, so suddenly released, caused the water level at the fire station to rise nine feet in ten minutes; the water receded, however, in about the same length of time.

The air pressure made by the rising water under the steel bridge near the fire station caused the bridge to blow into the air several feet, and it landed about two hundred feet down the river. After the bridge was destroyed, to go to the south side of the river, one had to drive through Winchendon, Gardner, East Templeton, and Templeton Center, traveling a distance of twenty-five miles to get to the other side of a seventy foot gap. By nailing planks across the ties of the Boston & Albany Railroad bridge, and a rail along the sides, it was possible to cross on foot; some goods were carried across the bridge on a hand car lent by the railroad company.

Hundreds of shade trees were blown down and were a total loss, though some were left at such an angle that they could





BALDWINVILLE BEFORE BIRCH HILL DAM CONSTRUCTION





Federal Holdings.



be straightened and saved. A number of buildings were damaged also. About forty per cent of the light and power lines of the Templeton Municipal Light Department went out of commission. For two days after the flood, the people of Otter River and Baldwinville were supplied with bakery food by ferrying it across the washed-out places in a boat, with the help of ropes attached to trees on the banks.

After the flood and hurricane, the people went to work with a will to clear the streets and pick up the debris. A temporary bridge was built across the river bed, just below where the old one stood, and was used until the new bridge was built.

At the height of the flood, the water was three feet deep in the stock room of the Light Department; seven feet deep in the lodge rooms in Fraternity Hall; there were about three feet of water over the highway near the fire station; the basement of the Bancroft factory was flooded; in the factories of Kenney Brothers and the E. L. Thompson Chair Shop, the water reached the second floor. The South Royalston road, and the Athol road, near the Day Mill brook, were a number of feet under water; and all the cellars of the houses at the lower end of the village were flooded.

Athol, Orange, and other towns along the river, below Baldwinville, were also severely damaged.

To prevent such catastrophe in the future, the United States Government started surveying at once for the purpose of building a dam to control high water caused by spring thaws or heavy rains, and to release water slowly after flood danger was over and the rivers below the dam low enough to take care of the released water.

The Government purchased hundreds of acres of Baldwinville land, that would be covered with water during flood season, for the Birch Hill Dam project, causing the Town of Templeton to lose about \$180,000 worth of taxable property,



which included fifty-two dwellings, one store, two roadside stands, and three factories.

The factory of Kenney Brothers moved to Winchendon, the Bancroft factory moved to Gardner; E. L. Thompson Company built a new factory on Prospect Street. The old factories and other buildings were mostly taken down and the lumber sold; a few of the houses were moved to other villages.

Two miles of track of the Boston & Maine Railroad had to be moved to a higher elevation, at a cost of about \$1,750,000. Route 202 from Athol, through Baldwinville, to Winchendon, was also raised, at an approximate cost of \$225,000 for each end. The bridge over the Boston & Maine Railroad made of steel and concrete, cost around \$110,000. The cost of the road from the state road south of Baldwinville, around Norcross Hill, to South Royalston, cost \$36,000.

The Government agreed, after several hearings, to reimburse the Town of Templeton in the sum of \$7,000 a year as compensation for taxes lost by giving up the land in the flood area.

Urban Oliver states: "The most tragic and permanent misfortune to Baldwinville came in connection with the Federal control construction known as the 'Birch Hill' project; this resulted in permanent Federal acquisition of a large area of land and the elimination of buildings.

In 1943 the record stood:

Value of land acquired by U.S. Gov't.	\$ 34,995.00
Value of buildings acquired	152,450.00
Tax loss to the Town	8,435.00

There were ninety-one homes and fifty-one other buildings taken; three factories with a yearly payroll of \$130,000, and 124 workmen who were obliged to leave town.

Since 1943, there have been additional acquisitions and some extensions of the area subject to Federal control."

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The physicians of Baldwinville have given good service throughout the years. The first resident doctor was Dr. Barrett, who began practice in 1847. Then followed Dr. Jewett, Dr. Jonathan White, Dr. William Southard, Dr. J. S. Fogg, Dr. G. I. Perry, and Dr. L. W. Baker, the founder of the Hospital Cottages for Children. Dr. Mullins began practice in 1881. He had studied in France and Germany and did special research in the cure for cancer. He remained in the village until his death in 1919. Dr. W. F. Robie came in 1892. He carried on a sanatorium on Memorial Street, and wrote articles for publication. During this period, Dr. D. H. Gatchell gave a few years' service.

In 1899, Dr. C. A. Fletcher began his practice as a dentist and continued until 1941. His son, Louis, is now carrying on his father's practice.

Dr. O. B. Roberts settled in the village in 1900 and has given faithful service, even to the present day. Not only in the north section, but in all parts of the town he answers urgent calls.

For this part of our history, L. Clifford Day's article on Prescription seems an appropriate closing.

## PRESCRIPTION

One day, not long after the century had begun, impetuous, young Dr. Gatchell arrived in the village to tack his freshly painted "Office Hours" shingle upon one of the Central Street doorposts. He had lived in town hardly a week when he chanced to meet the venerable Dr. Mullins, as they were both crossing the village green.

"Well, Doc", the younger man exclaimed brusquely, as was his way, "I've looked your town over all the way from Archibald Jones' plate-glass bay window to the last shack down the river, and all I can think of is the old saying: 'God made the

country and man made the town, but the devil made the country town'."

"Meaning, I suppose —" drawled Dr. Mullins in his usual dry manner, "that ours is a country town?"

"Yes", promptly admitted the critical Dr. Gatchell.

"Well —" hesitated the loyal Mullins, ever calm and smiling, "I don't believe we're really as bad as that. Our town is only just like a lot of other small places that have acquired a few waterwheels and smokestacks. It has its unlovely spots, I know, but at its worst, I believe, it is no more than what poetic old Jed Prentiss once said, 'A misshapen jewel in a beautiful setting'."

Dr. Mullins paused a moment, but the young man, though nervously biting his lips, stood still as if waiting to hear more. So the doctor continued:

"We natives, you see, instead of blaming the devil for what man has thoughtlessly messed up, thank God for having so much beauty all about us, spread out right down into our backyards. We have dark winter smoke, perhaps, but we also have white summer clouds. Our mills may have ugly board piles, but our streets still have fine old shade trees. Man's wastage has given us a few nearby barren gravel heaps, but God's surrounding, living hills are still here, and will be a long, long time — perhaps long after man and the devil are both forgotten."

"Well, maybe you're right," grudgingly admitted young Gatchell, as he impatiently started away.

But habit was strong with the good old doctor and he could not let a patient go without a final prescription:

"You'll feel better about us, my boy, I am sure, if some day you'll take a drive up Wachusett and on another day attempt the manful climb up Monadnock. Then you'll see the village in true perspective. Then you'll understand why we natives feel about it as we do!"



## BUSINESS OF BALDWINVILLE

### MILLS AND SHOPS

Lorey A. Tourtellot

In May, 1753, The Proprietors voted to build a corn-mill. A tax of six shillings on each right of land was laid to defray the cost of the mill. Thomas Sawyer of Bolton was given about \$120. for building the mill, which he would own, and for doing the grinding. It is reported that it was located in Goulding Village, which is in the southwest section of Templeton, now a part of Phillipston. But in 1754, that same Mr. Sawyer, built a saw-and grist-mill in Baldwinville, on the south side of the Otter River, the site formerly owned by the Waite Chair Co. Thomas Sawyer operated these mills until about 1767, when they were sold to Jonathan Baldwin.

Capt. Eden Baldwin, son of Jonathan, succeeded his father in the ownership of the mills. He carried on a lumber business and also made bricks in a yard located on So. Main Street, between Cottage Street and the Boston and Albany R. R. The clay pit was on the other side of the tracks.

Another brickyard was located near the site of Bourn, Hadley and Fairbanks Co. and the present Paper Mill, between the mill and the railroad. These clay pits were filled in at the time the Smith and Day factory was built and the land was used as a lumber yard. In the early days, the bricks were smaller than those of today. The regular brick was 6½ in. long 3¼ in. wide and 3¼ in. thick. A special brick was also made, 18 in. long, 12 in. wide and 3¼ in. thick.

In 1803, Eden Baldwin rebuilt the mills and did business there until 1829, when he rented them for five years to William Kendall and Edward Richardson of Holden. Then in 1836, he sold the mills to Col. George W. Sawyer, and bought them back two years later, retaining them until his

death in 1839. In that same year, another Eden Baldwin, a distant relative of the former, became the owner and in 1840, he took down the old mill, and built the eastern part of the Red Mill, installed a new grist-mill and a self setting saw-mill.

In 1842, he sold the property to Gilman Day, who in 1843, received Charles Baldwin as a partner.

In 1847, Edwin Sawyer bought Mr. Baldwin's interest. Day and Sawyer built the western half of the Red Mill. They made wood seat chairs, hat cases etc. Mr. Day also built the original saw-mill at Day Mill Pond.

The manufacture of chairs has continued by different firms in successive years:

Sawyer, Thompson, and in 1856, Perley; Thompson, Perley and Waite in 1871. After the death of Mr. Perley in 1886, the firm was divided, Mr. Thompson became the head of the firm at the lower mill, known as D. L. Thompson & Son, and Gilman Waite became the head of the firm at the upper mill, known as the Waite Chair Co.

After operating the upper mill for a number of years Mr. Waite turned the factory over to his two sons, John and Irving, who continued to operate the factory until the death of Irving, when it was carried on by John alone.

In 1904, the Waite Chair Co., built a new factory on the north side of the river, on the site of the box shop destroyed by fire in 1895. After a time, John Waite sold the factory to Fred and Alvin Bancroft, and after their deaths, it was operated by their sons, Raymond and Howard, until the death of Raymond, then it was carried on by Howard and Mrs. Raymond Bancroft until it was taken over by the U. S. Government, after the hurricane of 1938 and torn down in 1945.

For a number of years, the chair factories had most of the seating of the chair frames done in private homes, by house-



wives and children. The frames were delivered and collected by teams within a distance of eighteen or twenty miles.

D. L. Thompson & Son operated the lower mill for a number of years, manufacturing cane-seat chairs of all kinds and wood-seated office chairs. After the death of D. L. Thompson, the business was carried on by his son, and was known as E. L. Thompson & Co., until Orange Whitney of Winchendon became a partner of the firm, when it was called E. L. Thompson Chair Co. After a few years, Mr. Whitney sold his share back to Mr. Thompson who continued the business alone until he sold to Thomas Brazell of Gardner in 1922. It was then called the E. L. Thompson Chair Corporation. After the death of Mr. Brazell, the business was carried on by his heirs, with Thomas Brazell, Jr., as President, John Brazell as Treasurer and Manager. They have continued to manufacture high chairs as a specialty to the present day.

After the flood of 1938, E. L. Thompson Chair Corporation built a new factory at the corner of Prospect and Mechanic Streets. When they were moving to the new location, Mr. Brazell found the first telephone connection used between the upper and lower mills. This consisted of two boxes, connected by wire from one mill to the other. If a man in one mill wanted to call someone in the other mill, he tapped a knob in the center of the box with a hammer, causing a vibrating noise in the other mill. These telephones are to be seen at the Narragansett Historical Building.

It is probable that the first men to manufacture chairs in Baldwinville were Kilburn and Steven Osborne, but we do not know where their factory was located.

In 1843, Capt. Warren Merrett began the hat pressing business in the Red Mill, at the end of the upper dam, on the south side of the river. In 1844, a mill was built at the north end of the dam. Capt. Merrett moved his business there and



continued it until 1850, after which the business was carried on by John Stearns, and then by Lee & Stearns, who employed about twenty hands. After a short time, a building 30 ft. by 40 ft. was added, and in 1853, another addition of 160 ft. was made.

In 1873, Baker & Wilson bought the property and added another 40 feet. In the west end of the mill, Baker & Wilson started a grist mill, where they ground quantities of western corn, selling the meal to the neighboring villages. Lee & Stearns finally gave up the hat-pressing business and the mill remained idle for a few years.

In 1888, the Winchester Box Company, operated by Henry Shepardson and Frank Russell, came to Baldwinville, after their factory at Winchester, N. H., was destroyed by fire, and located in the mill at the north end of the dam. Here they manufactured wooden boxes until the mill was burned in 1895. The company built a new factory at the north end of the village, near the Boston & Albany R.R. Later they added a new line to their business and manufactured special cases for eggs. Charles Porter cut up and turned stock for chairs in the basement of this building, and Captain Chisholm started a business of cutting and bundling kindling wood, made from the waste stock of the Box Company.

In 1898, the Winchester Box Company merged with the New England Box Co., and in 1927, this factory moved from Baldwinville.

The Thorndyke Turning Co., formerly the business of Charles A. Porter, did a thriving business in wood turning and toys in a small building near the New England Box Company's factory. This business was sold to the National Novelty Co., of New York and moved to their branch factory in Winchendon. The building was purchased by the New England Box Co., moved to the south end of their factory and

used as a storehouse until it was torn down with the rest of the factory, about 1940.

In 1841, Captain Joseph Davis built a saw-mill at the east end of the village where the Bourn, Hadley, Fairbanks Company factory now stands. For some years, pails were made there and afterwards, doors, sash and blinds; in addition, matches were made by Sawyer and Patterson, buckets by Robinson and Hersey and clothespins by James Stimpson.

This first mill was destroyed by fire in 1856, and the site was purchased in 1869 by Charles Perley and Gilman Waite. In 1870, a stock company, the Baldwinville Mill Company, was formed, and a large and commodious factory was built, furnishing accommodations to several firms. L. Greenwood and Company manufactured chairs while Sawyer and Company made furniture. At the same time C. Aylmer Smith, Lorey D. Day and Charles Day started a chair-manufacturing business under the name of Smith, Day and Company, which later took over the entire plant. For many years, Smith, Day and Company maintained a warehouse in Detroit, Michigan, and a warehouse was still in operation at Indianapolis, Indiana, at the time the business was sold in 1929. The Baldwinville plant was purchased in this latter year by William Bourn, Walter Hadley and Arthur Fairbanks, who formed the Bourn, Hadley, Fairbanks Company, which continues to manufacture chairs to the present day (1946). During the occupancy of Smith, Day and Company, the plant was twice burned and twice rebuilt, in 1885 and in 1907.

A part of the water power for this factory was used by H. M. Small, formerly Small Goulding Company, in the manufacture of sheathing, roof paper, asbestos, paper plates and soap.

The mill was destroyed by fire and rebuilt, and Mr. Small



sold the business to Philip Carey Manufacturing Co., who made toilet paper, paper napkins and towels. In 1909, this firm sold the mill to Alvin L. Adams who continued the business under the name of Adams Paper Company.

After a few years, Mr. Adams built a new and larger mill and installed one of the largest toilet paper machines in the country, which doubled the amount made by the old machine.

In 1844, Albert Bryant and James Stimpson built a dam across the Otter River, which is now known as Kenney's dam. A shop was soon built at the north end of the dam and in 1846, another was built at the south end by Mr. Stimpson.

In these shops various kinds of businesses have been carried on — hat-pressing, the making of matches, doors, sashes and blinds. The shop at the south end of the dam was burned in 1862 and afterward the water privileges passed into the hands of Baker, Sawyer, Thompson and Perley. This firm and their successors occupied the southerly shop in the manufacture of chairs.

In 1887, a division of the firm was made. The one at the south end was known as D. L. Thompson & Son, who continued to manufacture various kinds of chairs as previously stated. The shop at the north end was taken over in 1858 by Willard Baker and A. Wilson. Baker and Wilson manufactured children's and dolls' carriages, carts, chairs and cribs. After the death of Mr. Baker, Mr. Wilson sold the property to Bishop & Streeter, who made reed and rattan chairs for a few years, and then Mr. Streeter sold his share to C. S. Dickinson. After the death of Mr. Dickinson, his part of the business was continued by his nephew, Warren Sibley. Later the buildings were sold to Kenney Brothers and Wolkins Co., who manufactured school furniture. It was destroyed by fire February 8, 1923, and rebuilt that same year.

In 1935, the company added dinette chairs and continued



until the firm liquidated. The factory was purchased by William O. Kenney, a son of the member of the former firm. In 1941, this business was moved to Winchendon, since the Baldwinville plant was in the flood-control area.

James Stimpson built a factory south of D. L. Thompson & Son near Memorial Street bridge, where he made patterns and also lamp-posts for outside lighting by kerosene lamps, until the factory burned.

Herbert Leland built a factory at the south end of the lower dam, on the site of the factory built by James Stimpson, which was destroyed by fire in 1862. Mr. Leland manufactured chairs there for a few years and then closed out the business.

In 1924, Otto Kauppinen started making chairs, hampers and other kinds of furniture of reed and rattan, in the Ellis Blacksmith Shop building and then moved to the barn of C. A. Fletcher and continued the business there, until it was destroyed by fire in 1940.

For several years, previous to 1817, a tannery was operated by Joel Hayden and later by Henry and Joseph Newton on a site west of the hotel.

The mill for grinding bark by water power owned by Henry and Joseph Newton, was located on Central Street, where the Texaco service station now stands. After the tannery gave up business, this site was taken over by Thompson, Perley & Waite, who used a part of the building for an office and the rest as a storehouse for chairs and stock.

When this firm was divided, Mr. Thompson moved his office to the lower mill and Mr. Waite to the upper mill, and this building remained empty for sometime. Then it was taken over by Bert Sumner who ran a livery stable there for several years. Mr. Sumner sold to Eugene Meegan who continued to use it as a stable until it was destroyed by fire.

On the south end of the old building, an addition was built and used for a short time as a meeting-place by Rev. J. W. Coolidge. It was later used as a blacksmith shop by John McLeod, then by George Divoll until it was burned.

The site was purchased by Nicholas Rubino. After a few years, a service station was built there, now operated by Wallace Paine.

Where the Texaco station now stands, various kinds of business were carried on. John and Hartford Potter put in another mill; Kelton and Hollingsworth made machinery; E. B. Sawyer and afterwards Buffum and Newton, made grain measures; Captain W. L. Merrett manufactured window shades, and James Stimpson made faucets.

William Nichols devised hand-saw machines and various kinds of machinery for making chairs. Henry Picket made machinery for the construction of wooden boxes; then celluloid articles were manufactured there until the factory was burned.

In addition, at the west side of this mill, a printing shop was carried on by John F. Folsom who printed a weekly paper called "The Templeton Press", which sold for a dollar a year. (Dr. L. W. Baker also had considerable interest in the founding of this paper.) Mr. Folsom sold the printing shop to Rev. James Gage, a Methodist minister, who managed it for a few years.

There was also a Chinese laundry in the building; and Charles S. Vial manufactured chairs there until the property was destroyed by fire.

After a few years, Watson Martatell purchased the property and erected a building in which he had a bowling alley and pool room. Mr. Martatell sold to William Miner who continued to operate the alley and pool room. He also built a service station on the eastern part of the site which is still

in operation. Mr. Miner moved the bowling alley-pool room to his new building on the Brooks & Cady site and operated them there until the building was burned.

The old building is now used as a lunch room and dwelling by John Whipple. John Wickoski has a barber shop in the east end of the building.

## MOSQUITO MILL

On the road to South Royalston there are two mill sites — the upper one is known as the old Mosquito Mill, the lower one as the Norcross Mill. The old Mosquito Mill was owned by W. A. Shore, a blacksmith from Nottinghamshire, England.

At that time horeshoes were made entirely by hand and were fitted to the hoof as they were being made. Mr. Shore had an idea that horseshoes could be made by machinery; then the blacksmith would only need to fit and nail them on. He started to put his idea on paper. One day when going to dinner, he forgot to lock the mill door, and on his return found a salesman sitting near the plans. He had evidently studied them, as it was only a short time before a patent was granted for the manufacturing of horseshoes, and they were on the market.

As far as we know, Mr. Shore never received anything for his ideas. His son, W. A. T. Shore, was also a blacksmith. His shop was located east of the house now occupied by George Hoag. The shop was destroyed by fire in October, 1900; and in early November, the house was struck by lightning. Mr. Shore found another shop back of the livery stable and continued the business there until his death. After the Shores left the mills, the upper one was operated by William



Norcross and the lower one by Ora Norcross. At these mills were made shingles, fancy boxes and collar boxes.

After a few years, the buildings began to decay and were sold for lumber. Some years later, the lower mill was rebuilt and an iron penstock, constructed to turn the water wheel, was built near the old wooden penstock, which lay among the ferns.

About 1895, Ora Norcross sawed out stock there and in the mill yard built a house in which he lived. Mr. Norcross employed a number of men who had worked in the old mill when they were young, and who related that the old wooden penstock that furnished the water for the waterwheel, emptied into an open trough, near the road, just before it reached the mill. Horses and oxen on the highway used this water supply. If two horses or oxen watered at the same time, the flow of water would be reduced so much, that the mill would have to shut down until the animals were through drinking.

On the property previously owned by Gilman Waite, on the state road just beyond the Boston and Maine underpass, Henry G. Opgenorth manufactured different sizes of paper padding used in packing furniture and other finished articles. After a few years, Mr. Opgenorth moved to South Gardner.

In 1940, Armand Fontaine of Gardner purchased this property. The firm is known as the Fontaine Furniture Products, Inc. It manufactures different styles of straight chairs, rockers and base rockers.

All factories along the Otter River used water power, when available; at other times they used steam power, until the flood and hurricane of 1938, when all the dams were destroyed and the ponds drained. The Government would not allow the dams to be rebuilt; and the factory owners were forced to install electric power, which proved to be very satisfactory.

## PAIL FACTORY

In 1880, Arthur T. Harris and his brother-in-law, A. M. Holman, known as the firm of Holman & Harris, began to manufacture wooden pails, tubs and buckets, in a building located at the south end of the lower dam and built by Herbert Leland on the site of the Stimpson factory destroyed in 1862. They employed one man, named Holt. Their first shipment went to W. J. Wilcott Co., N. Y., June 10, 1880, and was carried to the depot in a wheelbarrow. Mr. Harris pushed the wheelbarrow, and Holman helped by pulling a rope attached to the front end. This first shipment sold for \$7.70. In later years, a similar shipment sold for about \$1,000.00.

As the business increased, the firm employed more men. After operating for four years, Holman & Harris built a new factory at the north end of the village, near the Boston and Maine R. R. This factory was dedicated with a grand celebration and dance on Christmas Eve, 1884. The main building was 259 ft. x 32 ft., and the paint shop was 30 ft. x 50 ft. with the several stories making about 33,000 square feet of floor surface. The factory was destroyed by fire in 1895 and rebuilt on a larger scale that same year. While the new factory was being built, the business was carried on in the old Leland factory at the lower end of the village.

As Holman & Harris cut and hauled their own lumber, they owned about 20 horses and a pair of oxen; in the factory and in the woods they employed from 100 to 120 men.

Mr. Holman died in 1897, and Mr. Harris carried on the business for a few months. Later, that same year, John Murphy, who in 1885 became the firm's bookkeeper, was made a partner in the business, and the firm became Harris & Murphy. They continued to manufacture pails, tubs and buckets, until both men retired in 1909. The machinery was dismantled and sold to different factories through the country.

## TEMPLE STUART COMPANY

In 1910, J. A. Temple and Arthur L. Stuart, known as the Temple-Stuart Co., came to Baldwinville from Princeton, Mass., and purchased the factory buildings recently vacated by Harris & Murphy. They manufactured different styles of kitchen and dining chairs. After the death of Mr. Stuart in 1928, the business was carried on by Mrs. Temple and Mr. Stuart's three sons, Benjamin, Carl and John. Dinette and breakfast sets were added to their other merchandise.

During the period of World War II, their work was on war contracts, according to Army and Navy requirements. After the war, they continued to manufacture the same line of merchandise as before. During their ownership of this factory, a number of buildings have been added, making Temple-Stuart's factory the largest in town. They employ about 125 men and women; and their merchandise has been sent to all parts of the United States.

## POSTOFFICE

The Baldwinville Postoffice was established in 1830, and Capt. Joseph Davis from Northboro, a nephew of Gov. Davis, was appointed postmaster. He opened the postoffice in a store built in 1824 by Capt. Eden Baldwin, on the ground now occupied by Depot Street. In 1832, Capt. Davis built the Narragansett House and later moved the postoffice to a location near the hotel, which now is the Hotel annex. He held the position of postmaster until August 5, 1853, when James H. Clapp was appointed. On June 24, 1861, Edwin Sawyer was chosen, and on December 9, 1870, Otis D. Sawin.

At that time the postoffice was in the store of Sawin & Bryant, in the Brooks & Cady building that stood just west of the present drug store. Ezra A. Lamb, who had been a



clerk in this store, was appointed postmaster on June 16, 1874. Lysander Bronsdon, the village carpenter, erected a small building for Mr. Lamb, where the Red and White store now stands on Circle Street (1946), which was used for the post-office. The postmaster sold candy, and the Baldwinville branch of the Boynton Library was located there. George F. Bryant became the sixth postmaster on August 27, 1885, and the post-office was moved back to the Brooks & Cady block. George Bryant and Charles A. Perley served as postmasters from 1885 until 1915, holding office alternately according to the party in office; Mr. Bryant being a Democrat and Mr. Perley a Republican.

In 1888, the postoffice was moved to the site of the news store and in 1903, to its present location (1946).

During Mr. Perley's service, it became a third class post-office, and the village delivery was started. Baldwinville was the first village in the state to have mail delivery. The first trip was made on March 19, 1913, and Earl Ellis was the first carrier. Following Mr. Ellis were Carroll Robie, Irving Welch, Frank Tourtellot, Frederick Greenwood, Francis Saunders and Leon Konstantnowicz.

The last two men served in World War II, and during their absence several temporary carriers were employed. Two deliveries were made each day.

Daniel O'Leary was Mr. Perley's successor as postmaster, holding the position from 1915 to 1928.

After the fire of 1918, the postoffice was given temporary quarters in Fraternity Hall. As soon as repairs were made, the old location was resumed. During that year, Angie Hunt was made assistant postmaster.

Walter P. Abbott succeeded Mr. O'Leary and served from 1928 to 1934, followed by John Saunders who served until his death, in 1937. Lauri Kauppinen then carried on until

his death, in 1940. Paul Kauppinen was appointed to succeed him and is serving at the present time (1946). The postoffice was raised to second class status in 1945.

The workings of the postoffice have changed considerably since it was established. Older residents remember when the letters were placed in a wheel, similar to a revolving rack in which souvenir cards are displayed, so patrons could tell at a glance whether there was mail for them. Now the office is equipped with postoffice furniture made by Bourn & Hadley Company of Templeton Center and has all the latest devices for handling first class mail, parcel post, money-orders, registered mail and all other services of a second class post-office.

## BANKS

The Templeton Savings Bank, at Baldwinville, was incorporated April 19, 1871. It was first located in one of the rooms on the second floor of the Brooks & Cady block. In 1888, the trustees voted to erect a building suitable for the bank, with rooms to let for other purposes. The building contained stores on the first floor, offices on the second floor and a large room on the third floor, which was used as a lodge room until the roof was destroyed by fire in 1918.

At the time of its incorporation, M. A. Wilson was chosen president, followed by John Murphy and William P. Hawley. Asa Hosmer was the first treasurer, succeeded by Frank Hosmer and George Stone who served until the national merger of the banks decreed by the Government in 1933. The Gardner Savings Bank then purchased this bank.

The Baldwinville Cooperative Bank started business July 23, 1889, in the building of the Templeton Savings Bank. The following have served as presidents: H. M. Small, C. S. Dickinson, E. L. Thompson, C. A. Fletcher and Benjamin

F. Stuart, Sr., who is serving at the present time (1946). Those serving as treasurer were: George E. Bryant, C. C. Spear, and Walter P. Abbott, who holds the office at present.

## STORES

During the early days, before there were stores, furnishing of family supplies was combined with other business. But in 1824, Capt. Eden Baldwin built a store on the spot where Depot Road is now located. Capt. Moses Bond, who had previously kept a store at Templeton Center, carried this on for three years. Then Capt. Joseph Davis leased the store and placed it in the care of a man by the name of Valentine.

In 1840, Capt. Davis bought the store building and moved it to a site near the hotel where it now stands.

The building now occupied by the Oliver studios was erected in 1824. Joseph Raymond first carried on business there and afterward, Lee & Raymond until 1837; Lee and Morley and Lee & Lincoln were the names of the firms until 1844; then M. A. Woods & Co., until 1856. For a few years following, the store was operated by various people.

In 1870, the firm of Leland Brothers was founded, but after several years, Francis Leland severed his partnership and gave undivided attention to his store in Otter River. Louis Leland continued the business alone, except for the two terms he served in the General Court, when he left the store to the care of his son, Herbert.

After Louis Leland's death, his son, Herbert, and daughter, Harriet, continued the business for a few years, and then the store was closed. In 1928, Walter F. Oliver bought the building and made it over into the present studio.

Since 1844, there has been a store on the site of the Cady & Brooks Block, first occupied by James Stimpson and Mark W. Ray. A protective union store was there afterwards, with



James H. Clapp as agent. From 1861 to 1876 it was used by Sawyer, Thompson & Perley as a store and office. O. D. Sawyer kept the store for one year, and then it was carried on by Sawin & Bryant until 1880, when it burned.

It was rebuilt on a larger scale with a spacious hall on the third floor. The first floor was occupied by Dorr & Dickinson, and Lehy and Goss. The Templeton Savings Bank and a lawyer's office were on the second floor. Fire consumed the entire structure in 1882; again it was rebuilt, with the offices, as before, on the second floor and the postoffice and two stores on the first floor. In one of these stores C. S. Dickinson sold drugs, medicines and furnishings; and the other store, C. S. Dickinson & Co., furnished groceries and miscellaneous goods. When Mr. Dickinson started the furniture business on Memorial Street, the drug store was taken over by Warren Sibley. In 1917, the building was again burned. In 1918, Mr. Sibley built a one-story structure on the west side of the old site. This was occupied by the drug store, except a small room in the rear, which was used as an office by the Templeton Municipal Light Dept. The building was sold to Dwight A. Allen in 1927. Mr. Allen continued the business in the drug store until it was sold to Poirior & Gallant in 1946. As these men were not registered pharmacists, the drug business was discontinued; but the sale of patent medicines, ice-cream, soft drinks and toilet articles continues to the present day (1946).

The bridge over the Otter River near the fire station was first built in 1763 by Noah Merritt. A small building was erected at the South End of the bridge which was occupied for brief periods by different persons, as a shoe store, also as a grocery store. After remaining idle for a few years, fire destroyed it. Bouchman & Brassard opened a meat and grocery store in the Reed Block, which they operated for a few

years and then sold to Tourigny and Trinque, now (1946) doing business under the name of the Baldwinville Cash Market.

Frank Newton and George Neal opened a grocery store in the building next to the hotel. After a time, Mr. Newton bought Mr. Neal's share, carried on the business for a few years and then closed the store. James Meegan had a meat and grocery store in this same building, and after his death, his heirs sold the business to Nickolas Karey. Mr. Karey sold to William Sterbinsky who is now (1946) operating the store under the name of Bill's Market. In 1885, James Meegan, Sr., operated a store on School Street hill; later it was taken over by his son Thomas, and then by James, Jr., who moved it to the store on Centre Street next to the hotel. L. S. Fisher operated a market on Central Street, in the basement of the Cady & Brooks Building in 1885. Mr. Fisher sold to Thomas J. Symons in 1891, and in 1909, Mr. Symons sold to Carter Brothers. Henry Smith operated a market in Elm Street, where the hardware store is now located. John Flis carried on a market and grocery store on Fessenden Street; Nicholas Raffa operated one on Pleasant Street and later sold to Charles Hughes who is still there (1946). Thomas Stone carried on a store where the Cash Market now stands. Mr. Stone moved his store to Maple Street, with a building of his own; and after his death the business was managed by Mrs. Stone until the land and buildings were taken over by the Government because they were in the flood area. Bryant and Perley operated a general store in the Cady & Brooks block of which John Heath later became the owner. He took on Jesse Richmond as partner, in the firm of Heath & Richmond. Later Mr. Richmond bought out Mr. Heath and after a few years, sold to Carter Brothers who carried on the business until the building was destroyed by fire.



John Eyers opened a grocery store in the building now owned by the Shepardson heirs, selling the business later to C. S. Stevens. After operating there a few years, Mr. Stevens moved the store to the Lamb Block on Circle Street; and after his death, the business was carried on by his sons, Clesson and Harry, until the building and store were sold to Kenneth Colburn, who still carries on the business under the name of the Red & White Store (1946). The Great Atlantic & Pacific Stores carried on business here for a number of years, but moved from the village during World War II. The First National Stores, which have been doing business for several years in this village, are operating a self-service store on Central Street.

In his home on South Main Street, Benjamin Cummings sold stoves and carried on a repair shop. Later, the business was moved to his new home on Cottage Street, next to the Boston & Albany R. R. Also, Isaac Coleman sold carriages at his home on South Main Street. John Butler had a harness shop in a small building on Circle Street, on the site of the present Red & White Store. He sold to a man by the name of Brown, who ran the business until the store was destroyed by fire.

In 1895, H. H. Hammond built and operated a hardware store on Central Street, west of the Boston & Albany overhead bridge. After a number of years, he sold to Allen Bronsdon. Later, the Davis Hardware Company of Gardner became the owner, followed by Aldege Demers. Since the latter's death, the store, now on Elm Street, has been managed by Mrs. Demers. In this building, owned by Clifford Willis, Mason & Lawton ran a grocery store previous to its use as a hardware store; Henry Smith a meat market; Bertha Robie used it as a millinery shop; and Henry White of Winchendon rented it for a funeral parlor (also the Fletcher Funeral



Home). The Oliver Studio occupied the building for a number of years.

In the Reed block, Ayers & Mills carried on funeral parlors. Frank Newton and Charles Searls operated a bakery in the basement of the Bank Block. Also, John Heath ran a bakery in the basement of the Reed block, where the Cash Market is now located.

Under a very large elm tree, that stood in front of the old stable, where the Paine Garage now stands, was an old-fashioned, horse-drawn lunch cart, operated first by William Hunt, then by Gilbert Holman and others. Finally it was moved away and the old elm tree taken down.

Other lunch rooms have maintained business in the village at various times; Thomas Stone in the Reed block, Lineen's Lunch near the Boston and Albany bridge, Miner's Lunch on Central Street.. The Central Lunch, at one time on the same street, is now located on School Street hill.

In the Lamb Block on Circle Street, Mrs. Edith Peabody (now on Forest St.) had a variety store and Mrs. Nellie Tourtellot a millinery shop.

In the little store at the west end of the bowling alley, William Miner had a hardware store, Warren Tourtellot a printing shop and Guy Squires a secondhand furniture store. At the present time (1946), Leland Greenwood has a radio shop there.

About 1890, Fred Barnett carried on a men's furnishing and shoe store in the Bank Building, where the postoffice is now located. Later, Mr. Barnett moved to Gardner.

In the building now owned by the Shepardson heirs, Charles Viall and Lee Shepardson had a printing shop; Shepardson & Parker a secondhand store, Edgar Rist an ice cream and candy store. At the present time (1946), the Shepardson Coal Co., uses it as a show room for oil ranges and oil heaters.

## BOOTS AND SHOES

The making of shoes was a most important business in the early days and has already been mentioned in the Baldwinville chapter.

Nicholas Rubino began repairing boots and shoes in the Reed Block in 1915. In 1921, he built a small store at the north end of the bridge and sold and repaired boots and shoes. In 1925, Mr. Rubino built an addition, enlarging his own store, making an office and salesroom on the street floor and a garage, for repairing cars, in the rear.

During the flood of 1938, the part of the building nearest the river was washed away, causing a total loss of that part of the building and of the stock. Mr. Rubino repaired the rest of the building and is still doing business there (1946).

E. Laplante began repairing boots and shoes in the small shop south of the Lamb Building (now the Colburn Bldg.). There he developed a shoe business and eventually moved to the south store in the same block. After the death of Mr. Laplante, Mrs. Laplante carried on the business for awhile; later she sold the stock and closed the store.

## BARBER SHOPS

In 1880, Joseph Oakes opened a barber shop on the second floor of the Hotel Annex, and after carrying on the business for a few years alone, took his son Fred in as a partner. When Mr. Oakes retired, his son carried on the business for a number of years and then sold it to William Saveall who later sold to Ted Russo, from Athol. Some of the other barber shops in the village were managed by Frank Peltier on Depot Street, Dr. C. A. Fletcher, Frank Russell and Fred Norcross on Central Street; and on the same street, George Marysz and John Wickoski are now operating barber shops. (1946).

## GREENHOUSES

In 1888, Frank Hosmer built a greenhouse where cucumbers were raised during the winter and shipped to Boston in the early spring, also to New York and other city markets where they sold for very high prices, sometimes as much as \$1.50 apiece. In the greenhouse, steam was installed for heating during cold nights and stormy days. There were also two or three hives of honey bees to transplant the pollen from the false blossoms to the true cucumber blossoms.

In the next few years, other greenhouses were built by E. W. Lund, Willard Lund, Granby Lund, Gary Blodgett, Reuben Greenwood, John Putnam, Arthur Hawkes, A. L. Paine, Sumner Morley, Thomas Hobbs, Dr. W. F. Robie, Joseph Columbus, Robert Hamilton, C. H. Leath, John Bass and Charles A. Perley. These greenhouses were all made of wood and glass. Thomas J. Symons and George E. Tourtellot, however, built them of steel and glass. All greenhouses have now been dismantled except the three belonging to A. L. Paine and one owned by Thomas J. Symons. Mr. Paine raised flowers in large variety, and since his death, in 1944, Mrs. Paine has been carrying on the business. Mr. Symon's greenhouse is now owned by Phillip Di Virgilio who raises cucumbers and tomatoes.

## ELECTRIC LIGHT

At the town meeting in March, 1906, it was voted to build a municipal light plant to supply the four villages with electric light and power. C. Aylmer Smith of Baldwinville, Charles H. Leath of Otter River and Charles Ingalls of East Templeton constituted the committee appointed to arrange for this construction. After receiving several bids, the contract was awarded to Fred T. Ley & Co., of Springfield, Massa-



chusetts, whose bid was \$21,500. T. Russell Robinson of Boston was engaged to draw the plans.

The town appropriated the sum required for the construction of the plant. The work was started in November of that same year, and in February, 1907, the contract was completed and the electricity turned on. At two special meetings, one in June and one in September, the town appropriated \$3,500. to build extensions to the line.

Herbert Lowell of East Templeton was the first superintendent, serving four years. In 1911, Edward Waite was appointed. During his management, a number of extensions were added to the lines and many new customers. Mr. Waite served for 13 years, and following him, Walter P. Abbott held the position for six months.

On October 24, 1924, Lorey A. Tourtellot was made manager and is still in charge (1946). Mr. Tourtellot has built a number of miles of new extensions, so that today the light and power lines extend to the town line on nearly every road in the town of Templeton. At present (1946), there are 1200 customers and about 400 street lights. The number of Kilowatts purchased from the Gardner Electric Company in 1946 was about 1,700,000.

All the extensions built in the last few years have been paid for out of the earnings of the plant; and the money appropriated by the town for construction has been paid back into the town treasury. The light and power rates are the lowest of any town within a radius of 15 miles. The present members of the board are: Walter Kenney, William Paine and Leon Cutting, all of Baldwinville.

## TELEPHONES

The New England Telephone and Telegraph Company started to operate around 1878. The first telephones were

installed in Baldwinville in 1884; the very first one in Louis Leland's store, where persons receiving calls were notified by a messenger. During that same year, 12 phones were placed in various offices and homes. As the number of phones began to increase, a small switchboard was installed in the store which, after a few years was moved to the second floor where it was operated for some time by Mr. and Mrs. Milton Gleason; then Marion King took the position. Later, Miss King purchased a house on Memorial Street, and there the company installed a new and larger switchboard which necessitated an assistant.

In 1940, the Telephone Company erected a new building on the north side of Memorial Street, near the church, and installed the latest type of dial system. Baldwinville was the first village in this part of Worcester County to have the dial system.

Throughout the 62 years, there has been a steady increase in the number of phones installed. In 1946, there were 708. The Baldwinville exchange serves Otter River and Templeton Center, as well as its own village.









FIRST FEDERATED CHURCH, TEMPLETON

# Churches of Templeton

by

FLORENCE PARKHURST WHITE



## CHURCHES OF TEMPLETON

AS already stated in the "Story of Templeton", the early settlers were righteous men, feeling the need of spiritual guidance. Thus, it was natural that they levied a tax of four shillings (about one dollar a year) on each right of land, to provide preaching, and when there were twenty families or so, meetings were held in private homes.

Dr. Joseph Lord from Pequog, now Athol, was engaged to conduct the services. He came every Sabbath with gun over his shoulder as a protection from Indians. This was in the autumn of 1753.

The first "meeting-house" as it was then called, was built in 1755 and made from chestnut trees taken from where the "Common" is now located. It was erected southeast of the present First Parish Church building, and John Brooks of Sterling was the builder. The main entrance faced what is now Wellington Road. If the sign, marking its location, were in exactly the right spot, it would stand in the middle of the present road.

The main floor of the structure was 40 x 50 feet. At the north end was the high pulpit with the usual "sounding board", and the deacons' seats directly below; in front of the pulpit were free seats for old people — the men on one side the women on the other — placed according to their rank. There were galleries on the sides rising one above the other. On the south end were the singers' seats. The central space within was filled with ranges of long seats, men and women on opposite sides, but finally a committee was chosen "to seat the meeting-house," and by degrees the spaces were dis-

posed of for pews, excepting the two rows in front of the pulpit. The seats in the gallery were free. The aforesaid committee had a delicate task, since it was their duty to see that seats considered most eligible, or of most dignity, were assigned to the largest tax-payers, and so on in graduated rank. Finally, an article was put in the town warrant, asking the town to dignify the seats by determining the rank, but the article passed in the negative and the committee was obliged to resume the difficult matter. This "seating of the meeting-house" was first done in 1765, again in 1770, 1778 and 1797.

As the church had been built by a tax on the Proprietors' lands, it was considered just that the privilege of pews should belong to them. They were expected to build them themselves, and a committee allotted a row of pew spaces around the wall of the house to eighteen Proprietors. In 1766, it was voted to allow two Proprietors to make windows in their pews, at their own expense, and to "leave the meeting-house decent."

The house was long left unpainted, as the expense seemed too great, but in 1783, it was voted to paint "the color of Leominster." The last service in this meeting-house was held September 1, 1811. Mrs. Elizabeth Leland, the eldest of Dr. Wellington's children, remembered attending this service when a very small child, wondering why the old ladies cried! The building was moved to the site where now (1946) stands the home of Mrs. Annie Scollay Barstow and became the Public Town House for thirty years. When it was taken down, the timbers were so sound that they were used in building the Scollay house.

The church was organized in 1775, and Reverend Daniel Pond was ordained as minister. It was called the First Church of Christ (Congregational). A covenant was drawn up, signed

by the twelve founders: Daniel Pond, Joshua Hyde, Josiah Wheat, David Clark, Charles Baker, David Goddard, Jacob Byam, Phineas Byam, Zacchias Barrett, Elias Wilder, Thomas Dewey and John Chamberlain.

The covenant was the same as that used in the Athol church and quoting from Reverend Edwin G. Adams in part — “they professed their determination, as disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, to walk together, as a Church of Christ, in mutual charity and obedience to gospel rules and the use of Christian privilege.”

The church assumed at its formation no party or sectarian name — Congregational means simply the form of church government by the congregation. Supreme authority is vested not in a Pope, nor in a House of Bishops, nor in a Presbytery, and each congregation is independent of any other.

The first minister, Reverend Daniel Pond, a native of Wrentham and a graduate of Harvard in 1745, remained only four years when he gave up the ministry and became a teacher in West Medway. An amusing story is told at the time of his ordination. Among the articles furnished for the occasion was a pound of chocolate and since it was Mr. Pond’s favorite drink, he asked Mrs. Byam, his hostess, to serve it at dinner, following the service. Mrs. Byam had prepared a boiled dinner and with many regrets said, “I put it into the pot with the vegetables, and have taken everything out carefully, but nothing of the chocolate can I find.”

It may not be amiss in these days of high prices to mention the cost of Mr. Pond’s ordination. Phineas Byam’s bill includes:

To the Council’s horses 2 for 1 day	— 1 s.
3 horses part of a day	— 1 s.
To meat, 10 lbs. @ 2d per lb.	— 1s.8d.



To my trouble making seats in meeting house — 2s 8d.

While Zaccheus Barrett's reads:

To riding after a kettle — 2s

To carting boards to the meeting  
house from Mr. Cobleigh's and back — 3s

To entertaining Mr. Pond's company,  
4 men, 3 meals each — 6s 5d.

Mr. Zaccheus Barrett's house was what we know as the Dolbear House. For the same occasion, Mr. Adams's history reads as follows:

4 pr. geese, 14½ lbs. @ 2¼ per lb.	.32
4 hens @ .08 per hen	.32
1 bush. apples @ .09 per bush.	.09
1 nutmeg	.06
sugar was .12 per lb.	
7¾ gals. rum @ .55 per gal.	4.25
7 1-3 lbs. tobacco @ 6 2-3 cts. per lb.	.49
3 doz. pipes @ .05 per doz.	.15

In those early days, a dense growth of trees surrounded the village. A little incident at that time is worth relating. It was the custom to hold two services, one in the forenoon and one in the afternoon. One Sunday after the second service, a mother discovered her little girl missing. All the townspeople hunted for many hours. At last she was found not far from the church, where the common is now located. This incident proves what was meant by the "forest primeval."

In November, 1760, Ebenezer Sparhawk, a young man of twenty-two years, came to preach as a candidate. On his journey by horseback from Rutland, via Barre, guided only by marked trees, he lost his way. Night approaching, with no habitation in sight, he fastened his horse to a tree and as the weather was cold, walked all night in a circle around the

tree. When morning came, he went in the direction of the sun, finding himself only a short distance from the house of Deacon Wilder where he was to have been entertained for the night. This house is now occupied by Josiah Henshaw and his son, Charles. Mr. Sparhawk was ordained November 18, 1761, as the second minister of the church, in the house where he boarded, belonging to Zaccheus Barrett (later owned by John Cobleigh), and remained during his life, giving forty-four years of service.

He was dressed in the ministerial garb of that period, the ancient "small cloth" with bright silver knee buckles and the three-cornered clerical hat. He built the house on the Wellington Road now owned by Herbert Maynard (1946). He occupied it as long as he lived, when it was bought by his successor, Dr. Charles Wellington.

Mr. Sparhawk was twice married and had thirteen children. Some of his descendants, the Hawkes family, still live in this town. He was born in what is now called Brighton, Mass., and graduated from Harvard in 1756. He was settled at a salary of .66 lbs. 13 s.4d. which was equal to \$222.22 with the amount of two years salary additional as "a settlement." This settlement he invested in 80 acres of land including the house lot on which he built. He died in Templeton November 25, 1805, aged 67 years.

On November 17, 1806, the First Parish engaged Dr. Charles Wellington as minister, and since he remained pastor for fifty years and senior pastor for four additional years, dying at the age of 81 in 1861, it may be of interest to learn something of his life and influence in the town.

Dr. Wellington was born in Waltham, Massachusetts, February 20, 1780. He was one of thirteen children of an upright and respected farmer. A graduate of Harvard in 1802, he received his degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1854. He

was twenty-seven years old when called to the Templeton church. His salary was fixed at \$500. per year with the amount of one year's salary as a "settlement." Cost of living had increased this amount, and probably went only as far as Dr. Sparhawk's meagre salary. In addition, he was to receive his yearly supply of wood.

Dr. Wellington was ordained February 25, 1807, and in June of that year, married Anne Smith of Boston, the ceremony taking place in that city. His daughter, Mrs. Anna Batchelder of Templeton, when 81, writes of the couple's start in their two-wheeled chaise, drawn by a sleek black horse, for their new home seventy miles away. "As the second day of their journey drew to a close, the dust-worn travelers were met by about forty parishioners from Templeton, which revived their spirits and greatly shortened the last ten miles; a bountiful supper provided the crowning touch of welcome."

The town at this time contained nearly twelve hundred inhabitants, scattered over the bleak hills. It meant long and tedious drives for the minister who was born a spiritual adviser and comforter. In those times, the minister was expected to have oversight of the schools, visiting them at intervals and examining the teachers.

Dr. Wellington loved young people, followed their lives with interest and was especially desirous of leading them to a "higher plane of living." All this, with preparation of two sermons each week, filled every moment of his life.

"A man he was to all the country dear;  
And passing rich with forty pounds a year!  
But in his duty prompt at every call,  
He watched, he wept, he prayed, and felt for all.  
He tried each art, reproved each dull delay,  
Allured to brighter worlds and led the way."

—*Goldsmith*



One famous story of Templeton during Dr. Wellington's pastorate deserves to be told. "It became the custom in early times to appoint a day at the beginning of the year on which the minister's first supply of wood was delivered. Early in the afternoon might be seen long teams loaded with wood, coming from all directions, wending their way to the parsonage. Near the house, in confusion, were seen oxen and horses with men and boys in jolly good humor, unloading the donations, discussing the number of loads, the largest and best, and probably the stingiest; about twenty cords was the average supply. Then came adjournment to the house where abundant and appetizing refreshments were served by the grateful minister and his wife." As earlier related, a large load of forty cords of wood was delivered. "Dr. Wellington was never obliged to test the truth of the proverb, 'where there is no wood the fire goeth out'.

In 1811, the fourth year of Dr. Wellington's pastorate, a new church was built, (the present one) with a Christopher Wren spire, box pews, and high pulpit with a sounding board. Miss Mary Wellington Stone in her history of the church describes this new building:

"It was erected by Elias Carter of Brimfield and Jonathan Cutting of Templeton. At that time, it was considered the best meeting-house in Worcester County. The expense was met by the sale of pews. The latter were high backed with closing doors. The stairs leading to the high pulpit were enclosed, so when the minister entered the door at the foot, he disappeared until his head presently arose above, much to the edification of the children!"

As was the custom in most of the colonial churches, a sounding board hung over the pulpit. It is to be regretted that these early churches were not left as originally built, as in the case of the First Parish Church. Elias Carter was the son of a

noted English church architect who came to this country and settled in Brimfield, Massachusetts. He inherited all of his father's drawings and specifications and in addition became a famous wood carver. The town of Fitzwilliam engaged the same men, Carter and Cutting, to erect an exact duplicate of the Templeton church.

By means of a parish tax, a bell was purchased in May, 1812, made by Paul Revere. Soon after being hung, it was found to be defective, and on December 14th of that year, a warrant was issued and agents chosen to bring suit against Paul Revere & Son as having delivered an "unsound" bell. Another was sent and allowance made on the first. In 1815, still another was purchased, making three Paul Revere bells. In January 1829, it was voted that a committee of three sell the old bell, buy a new one, and the amount expended was \$313.30. Again in 1853, the latter was sold and a new one bought which still hangs in the belfrey with the makers' name —

"From Meneely, West Troy, N. Y. 1853."

Rules for ringing the original bell were strict, and the following is taken from the old records:

"Voted that the following rules and regulations shall be observed by the person who shall hereafter undertake to ring the Bell and take care of the meeting-house in the First Parish, Templeton, viz: The bell shall be rung twice each twenty-four hours, for the space of ten minutes through the year, beginning precisely at twelve o'clock noon, and at nine o'clock at night, Sunday noons excepted. On Sundays, at nine and at fifteen minutes past ten o'clock in the morning and also before the public exercises begin in the afternoon, it shall be rung ten minutes, cease five and then be regularly tolled until the minister takes his seat in the pulpit.

The bell shall also be rung on all special occasions or public days, as Thanksgiving, Fasts, Lectures, etc., and the same regu-

lations shall be observed as on Sundays aforesaid, when necessary.

At funerals the bell shall be regularly tolled for the space of fifteen minutes before the time set for the funeral and tolled again when the funeral procession arrives in sight of the Common, until the corpse is interred and the mourners get out of the burying-ground.

The penalty shall be the forfeiture of the service for one month for any unreasonable neglect of the before mentioned regulations. He shall keep the doors of the meeting-house seasonably open and shut on Sundays and all other times when necessary for use of the Parish and be accountable to the Parish for any damage the meeting-house shall sustain through his neglect, to be ascertained in such way and manner, as the Parish shall think proper. The house shall be thoroughly swept, and the seats carefully dusted, at least once a quarter, and oftener if necessary.

In the winter season, the snow shall be removed from the door steps and about the doors, that passage in and out of the house may not be obstructed.

“Voted, to let out the ringing of the bell and care of the meeting-house until the first of March next, at auction, to the lowest bidder.

Benjamin Hawkes “bid off” the bell to ring and the care of the meeting-house for nine dollars, promising to be governed by the before mentioned Rules.

On March 2, 1812, Josiah Howe “bid off” the bell to ring and the care of the meeting-house until the first of March the next year for the sum of \$24.75.”

Older residents remember the bell being tolled with the number of years attained by the deceased.

Before an organ was placed in the church, Capt. Moses Leland played the bass viol as accompaniment to the choir.



He lived in the west part of the town and rode to church in a one-horse chaise. He planned to arrive at the foot of the hill below the church just as the bell was tolling. Giving the reins to his wife, he tuned his viol to the bell, so when he entered the choir loft his instrument was in tune, much to the wonderment of the congregation.

The custom of ringing the bell every evening at nine o'clock was continued until 1867, when the present clock was installed in the belfry, being the gift of Joshua Bigelow of Boston, a native of Templeton. He was a son of John Bigelow, a clock-maker, who lived in the house now owned by Dr. P. J. Grant. His mother was a daughter of Capt. John Richardson of Revolutionary fame, and a sister of Mrs. Leonard Stone.

In 1832, Abel Sanger of Warwick, a native of Templeton, left \$700. to the parish for purchase of an organ. William M. Goodrich, also a native, furnished an organ for \$1,000. It was considered very fine and used in the church for nearly sixty years. Mr. Goodrich deserves more than a passing word, for few know his fame as an organ builder, together with his brother Ebenezer.

In a recent publication by the parish historian of Christ Church, Boston, Mrs. Mary Kent Davey Babcock, on "Organ & Organ Builders of Christ Church, Boston," is found valuable information concerning this native of Templeton who was born July 21, 1777.

Mrs. Babcock writes, "His first knowledge of the organ was gathered when visiting a Mr. Bruce who had been assisting Dr. Josiah Leavitt of Sterling to construct a small organ of wooden pipes and on his return to Templeton he made one for himself. In 1805, he started a church organ which he finished and put up in 1806 for Bishop Cheverus for the Roman Catholic Church on Federal Street, Boston. He repaired the organs in Kings' Chapel, Trinity Church and set

up an English organ in St. John's Church, Portsmouth, N. H."

After carrying on alone, having retired from a Boston firm, his talented brother, Ebenezer, joined him for twelve years before commencing business with his brother-in-law Thomas Appleton. Ebenezer's first parlor organ is in the Narragansett Historial Society's collection, presented by a descendant, Miss Eleanor Whidden of Marblehead. William and Ebenezer were brothers of the talented miniature painters, Sarah and Eliza Goodrich.

In Miss Ayars' book, "A Hundred Years of Music in America" she says, "During the time he continued in business, from 1805 to 1833, the year of his death, but three foreign organs were introduced into Boston, while his instruments became known throughout the whole of the United States."

The first organist was Leander Leland, husband of Dr. Wellington's eldest daughter, Elizabeth; followed by Almira Wellington (the latter's sister) who became Mrs. Joseph Baldwin. Then, Miss Margaret Leland, Leander's daughter, and Dr. Wellington's granddaughter, who played the organ for over thirty years. Robert Cobleigh, son of Marshall and Olive Cobleigh, was organist for nearly forty years, until his death August 10, 1930.

The present instrument, an Austin, was installed in 1903 and is the Sarah W. Higley Memorial Organ. Mrs. Higley died April 17, 1898, aged 83 years, leaving her entire life savings to the First Parish. The cost was \$3,000, and the organ is considered exceptionally fine by the talented musicians who have used it.

At the present time (1946) Dr. Wellington's great granddaughter, Miss Elsa W. Stone, is organist and choir director. Five other descendents of Dr. Wellington are living in town.

Sextons have been: Thomas Appleton Fiske (grandfather of Henry Seaver), Vernon Miles, James Maynard, Lucius Green-



wood, Robert T. Bourn, Alfred Christensen, H. Edwin Hawkes (1946) great grandson of Ebenezer Sparhawk.

In 1903, the Goodrich instrument was taken down and presented to the Unitarian Church in Gardner. It was destroyed by fire on February 17, 1927. One of its pipes was salvaged and presented to the Narragansett Historical Society by Ernest Kendall.

The Goodrich organ was pumped by hand and for many years by Abel Hunt, faithful to his task. On one Sunday, Miss Leland, the organist, played a beautiful voluntary and many gathered about to express their appreciation. Abel stood near and went away muttering to himself, "Guess I make the music as much as Miss Leland. I'll show 'em who plays that organ!" The next Sunday during the anthem, Abel stopped pumping but the choir continued their singing. Not until Miss Leland got down from her stool and used her persuasive powers did Abel continue his pumping.

Several books of Psalms and hymns have been used in the church. The first were those originally used at the beginning of the Protestant Reformation and introduced into the English churches in the reign of Edward VI. Their lines are rugged and uncouth, yet the pioneers loved them and it was a sore trial to some of them when the church voted to substitute Tate and Brady's Psalms with Watts' hymns. Dr. Wellington prepared a collection of about one hundred hymns, many of them in metres not found in Watts. Dr. Wellington was greatly interested in the part that music played in worship.

In the early days, a row of horse sheds was built on the south side of the First Parish Church. It was a long low building with stalls on either side, large enough to accommodate both horse and carriage. The stalls were owned by the pew holders and cared for by them. This shed was a haven of refuge for the horses on a cold winter day after traveling sev-



eral miles through deep snow and cold winds. Underneath the shed was a “pound”, a place for stray cattle.

When Dr. Wellington’s health began to fail, Rev. Edwin G. Adams, a native of Ashby, was installed as assistant minister. Dr. Wellington continued as senior pastor until his death in 1861 at the age of 81 years. Mr. Adams remained until his death in 1877, celebrating just previously the thirtieth year of his “settlement.”

Mr. Adams left valuable records of church history. Having a legal mind, he assisted the townspeople with their law problems and for many years served on the school committee. He and Dr. Sabin of the Trinitarian Church were firm friends and worked together for the good of the community. Their respective wives were equally beloved.

A parsonage was planned by Mrs. Adams for the First Parish. Completed in 1855, it has until recently been the residence of the Unitarian ministers.

In 1859, the church was remodeled by Boyden and Boll of Worcester and still again in 1897. A chapel with kitchen facilities, a hall with stage, and a ladies’ parlor and library were completed in 1872. Ministers serving the church through the years are as follows:

Daniel Pond	1755-1759
Ebenezer Sparhawk	1761-1805
Charles Wellington	1807-1861
Edwin G. Adams	1847-1877
Alfred C. Nickerson	1877-1886
Nathaniel Seaver, Jr.	1886-1892
John M. W. Pratt	1893-1906
William F. Skerrye	1906-1922
A. Nicholas Kaucher	1922-1927
Richard Allen Day	1927-1932

Two interim ministers were Otto Duerr and Roger Greeley Forbes. Neither was ordained.

## BAPTIST CHURCH

In the early part of the 19th century, there was a general condition of unrest throughout the Congregational churches of New England; members began to differ in doctrine, and the difference became so great that sometimes it was thought best to separate and form an independent church.

As our ancestors came to this country for freedom to worship God as they chose, it came to pass that in the year 1782, twenty-one members withdrew from the First Church and formed a Baptist Society, holding services in private houses. Its name was "The Baptist Church of Christ in Templeton", and their covenant was signed by ten men and eleven women. John Seldon of New Salem was ordained as the first minister on November 19, 1783. He was promised a "suitable dwelling together with all the comforts and necessities of life in sickness and in health, and also to keep his horse, winter and summer, and other horses that might occasionally come with friends, so long as he continued unitedly with the church." Evidently supplies for his temporal wants came in slowly and sometimes failed altogether. The church offered him the house, barn and land where he lived, together with twenty pounds a year (\$100.) but he closed the pastorate after one and a half years.

In 1799, a church building was erected at Baptist Common which was in use for over forty years. In 1840, this meeting-house was taken down and moved to a site presented by Capt. Eden Baldwin on the old Gardner road between Baldwinville and Otter River, the land being purchased of Joshua Hosmer, father of Mrs. Mary Stone and Mrs. Gilman Waite. It was placed there to accommodate the East Templeton and Gardner Baptists, but again, this location proved inconvenient, and it

was moved bodily to its present location in Baldwinville. It was dedicated for the third time in September 1869. A spire was added and the interior refurnished. In 1879-80, a chapel was added under the auspices of the Ladies Social Union which had been formed October 2, 1867. Later a clock was placed in the tower, given by people of the village. During the hurricane of 1938, the spire was destroyed but in time will be rebuilt.

Rev. H. V. Dexter, D.D., of Kennebunkport, Maine, who served the church as pastor for four years (1871-1875), wrote a full and accurate account of the first century of church activities. Dr. Dexter had an interesting family. A son, Edwin, outstanding in the field of education, was given the highest award for his work in Russia under the Czar. A grandson, Silas Perkins, of Kennebunkport, is a well-known poet.

The original covenant made in 1788, was considered very remarkable and the following portion might well be obligatory today in many a church.

"In consideration of the privilege of meeting with the church for worship, the signers agree not only to bear their proportion of all charges for the support of preaching, the building of a house of worship," etc., but (it is added) "that religion be not dishonored by us (although we are not public professors) we believe it our duty to attend to a moral life as rational beings." Dr. Dexter also adds: "A Society is an undesirable appendage to a church under any condition, but one like that of the Templeton Church (Baptist) is as little objectionable as any to be conceived of."

This church has had a long and honorable career down to the present time (1946). It was the mother of five Baptist churches,—Holden, Athol, Barre, Gardner, Winchendon, and has undergone many changes. When in 1866, the church was moved bodily from the old Gardner road to its present loca-



tion, it was necessary to cross the Boston and Maine Railroad tracks. It is said the building remained on the tracks over Sunday and trains were forced to transfer passengers and baggage around the church. Many an anxious mother saw her son climb the tower and ride on the timbers.

At this time the new spire was added. All this work was contributed, with time and money, by the Christian zeal of local citizens. Before the clock was installed, the bell was rung every evening at nine o'clock. A flourishing society of young people was formed in these earlier days called the "Social Temple." In 1877, a baptistry was built in the church and in 1878-80, a pipe organ was purchased and placed at the rear of the church, ten years later being moved to the front. In 1915, a new instrument was completed, a two-manual organ, given by the Ladies Social Union, and an organ fund left by Miss Eliza May Greenwood. In 1930, a gift of money from Miss L. May Tilden made possible the rebuilding of the organ, and it is called the Tilden Family Memorial Organ.

A detailed history of the Baptist Church, its loyal members, down through the years, its list of pastors and deacons, can be found in a pamphlet written by Mrs. Edith Ward Peabody for the Sesqui-Centennial of the church in 1932, and the church history by Rev. H. V. Dexter, D.D.

The church is indebted to the Massachusetts Baptist Convention for financial aid and counsel. Residents have assisted when no minister was available. Reverend A. A. Bronsdon, a neighbor and Congregational minister, supplied often in the pulpit and gave wise counsel and financial aid. Mr. Bronsdon is still living (1946), although no longer residing in Baldwinville.

In the histories can be found a record of the devoted work of pastors and laymen, gifts of money for improvement and labor alike from both women and men.

The silver communion service was given by Dr. William David Smith and his son, of Gardner.

According to Miss L. May Tilden, who wrote a short history of the Ladies Social Union founded in 1867, its contributions of money and hard work, have made repairs, paid taxes and insurance, painted the parsonage, provided special choir music, and even contributed toward the minister's salary. It should be given full credit for the long years of devotion to its church.

### TRINITARIAN CHURCH

On April 11, 1832, eleven members of the First Parish Church asked to be dismissed in order to form a new church. It was a friendly withdrawal. The First Church, strong in the faith that freedom to worship was everyone's right, sanctioned the request. Others joined, making the total number twenty-four.

They met in the home of Joseph Baker to form a religious society according to their desires and belief. A council was formed of neighboring churches, and it was voted to organize them into a church designated the First Trinitarian Congregational Church of Templeton. The names of the charter members were: Jonathan Shattuck, Simeon Gray, Sarah Gray, David Van Dorn, Relief Van Dorn, Asa Turner, Abigail Turner, Charles Fisher, C. M. Chamberlain, Phoebe Jones, Samuel Dixon, Moses Chamberlain, Susan Upham, Polly Haskel, Olive Hancock, Lydia Learnard, Susan Fisher, Myra Fisher, Eunice Gregory, Abijah Jones, Ezra Hyde, Hannah Turner, Naomi Sparhawk. Others followed, and in four years the church had over one hundred members.

In 1833, the meeting-house was built on land given by Deacon Benjamin Hawkes. The four large timbers, 54 feet long and 15 inches square, supporting the roof, were cut on the farm of Captain Asa Turner in Partridgeville. Lorenzo

Manning's grandfather, assisted by his son and townsmen, helped place them. Hand-hewn shingles were used, and the cost was \$1,700. The church stood on a bank on the present site, with wooden steps leading to double doors with large iron latches. The door key was six inches long. A bell was placed and the janitor, Moses Chamberlain, rang it as the bell was rung in the First Parish. A memorial organ was given by Charles May and his sister, Mary, in memory of Mrs. May who had given an individual communion set. (The original set was handsome and is still in possession of the church.) Some of the early organists were Mrs. Jennie Hillman, Mrs. Edward Scollay, Mrs. William Kilner, Miss Maria Blodgett and her niece, Miss Grace Blodgett, and Miss Esther Johnson who gave several years of service until the church was federated with the First Parish.

Up to the 100th anniversary of the church, in 1932, there had been only sixteen pastors, their names being

Reverend L. B. Bates	5 years
Reverend Lewis Sabin	35 years
Reverend C. A. White	3 years
Reverend C. M. Temple	2 years
Reverend R. W. Haskins, Rev. F. H. Kasson, Rev. George Sterling, each one year.	
Reverend Thomas O. Rice	5 years
Reverend Roswell Foster	3 years
Reverend William Sewell	2 years
Reverend G. B. Kambour	11 years
Reverend E. S. Smith	13 years
Reverend George Washington French, 5 years, dying after a long and painful illness.	

Reverend Allen A. Bronsdon and Reverend Briggs supplied for one year. In 1925, Rev. William Fryling came for four



years, followed by Reverend Richard Bailey, and Rev. Edwin Olsen who was pastor until the recent federation of the two churches.

The church has been renovated several times, and again it is to be regretted that the original pulpit of carved wood, painted in white and gold, with an eight foot front, was not retained. It was stored in the horseshed and finally destroyed. A massive brass chandelier with a dozen lights, hung in the center of the ceiling. A gallery was at the rear, and with Colonel George P. Hawkes as chorister, a bass viol, violin and full chorus, the music became a feature. Mr. Moses Richardson of Boston, gave a memorial window in memory of his mother, Lucy Richardson.

Several descendants of charter members are living in Templeton today, among them Mrs. Edith Gray Hinds and Mrs. Eva Gray Akers, descendants of Simeon Gray.

In 1825, there was formed in the First Parish, by the women, an organization named the Templeton Female Charitable Society; and when the Trinitarian group organized their new church, it was continued as the Ladies Aid, most of their work being devoted to packing and sending barrels to Dr. Goodell in Turkey. Later the name was again changed to the Women's Benevolent Society which remains to this day (1946).

The women of the First Parish organized on November 3, 1835, calling themselves the Ladies Social Circle. A library was started, there being none in town at that time. Some years later it became a branch of the "General Alliance of Unitarian and other Liberal Women."

All churches in the town have depended upon and never found wanting, their loyal hard-working women's societies and at this writing there are Men's Clubs and other organizations ready to do their share.

## THE FIRST FEDERATED CHURCH OF TEMPLETON

A chapter on Templeton churches would not be complete without mentioning a significant event which took place in 1939, concerning the two churches in Templeton Center,—the Unitarian Congregational and the Trinitarian Congregational. It was one hundred and seven years since the withdrawal of the Trinitarian group, and both churches through all those years had been the motivating religious force in the community. Both had been through trying experiences but were fundamentally sound, though small in numbers. In these modern times—in contrast to those when the churches and schools were our forefathers' first concern—a gradual weakness was discernible in the two parishes, both material and spiritual.

After meetings, long discussion, (and rightly so,) questionnaires etc., were brought before the two groups, finally resulting in a Federated, rather than a Union church, and dedication services were held in March 27, 1939. A word as to the difference between these types of organization may not be amiss for other communities faced with the same problem.

Some few years ago, the Institute of Social and Religious Research issued fifteen volumes on its findings. One of its books was called Union Churches, by Elizabeth Hooker, one of the Institute's workers. She stated in simple terms the present-day situation in communities not large enough to support denominational Protestant churches. The first step by religiously-minded men and women was to form "Union" churches. Miss Hooker accounted for a thousand of them, many of which she investigated personally. A large number soon encountered serious difficulties with their varied theologies, and many compromises had to be made, not without

rancour. Competent ministers were hard to find, and the inevitable result was that many of these churches died. A few hardy ones survived, and Massachusetts has more than fifty at the present time (1946).

Evolution in religious affairs takes place as in nature, and churches have realized that it must be met with a tolerant and scientific approach if it is to survive as a great moral force. Briefly, in 1908 alone, twenty-eight denominations discarded their sectarianism enough to join forces in forming The Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America. In 1931, thirty-five denominations, counting 139,000 churches, and 116,000 clergymen, with 22,000,000 communicants, had joined this Council.

From this evolved the idea of a Federated Church which means nothing more or less than cooperation. In legal terms, it is a corporation regulated by civil law, being the simplest form of the congregational order. For Congregationalists, there is no higher authority than the congregation.

Each church keeps its denominational connections intact, paying its dues, attending its conferences; the funds of each church are in its own hands, income from investments and weekly contributions being used for general expenses like the minister's salary, sexton, music, and running costs. The separate societies are linked with the federal body by the provision that a candidate for membership must first join one of the parent bodies.

When this federation was formed by the Templeton churches, articles of agreement were drawn up which were accepted by both organizations. These articles provided for the election of three members by each church to form a joint committee, with the addition of the pastor, "except when his own relation to the Federated Church is the business at hand."

In the active life of the church, friction is prevented by the



rule that only two functions are committed to a Federated Church — worship on Sundays and, at other times, work for the community.

As this is written, in 1946, the First Federated Church of Templeton is seven years old. Its ministers have been

Reverend Edwin Olsen	2 years
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Reverend George Ackerly	5 years
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Reverend Warren Johnson — just beginning his  
pastorate, October 1, 1946.

This cooperative body of Christian people is the soul of a Federated Church, on duty seven days a week.

## PHILLIPSTON CHURCH

The township of Narragansett No. 6 not only included Templeton but the larger part of the present town of Phillipston. The meeting-house of the First Parish was considerably east of the center of this territory. This condition made it inconvenient for those on the westerly side, especially in the winter. The town voted to occasionally have Dr. Sparhawk preach, closing the First Parish on these Sundays. Much discussion ensued as the inhabitants wearied of the inconvenience. Thus, in 1773, they petitioned the General Court to be separated from the rest of the town as to parochial affairs, and so become a district parish to be known as Templeton West Parish. The Court granted the petition, but it was a long time before the new parish was able to sustain a church.

A Council was formed on November 16, 1785, but there was no settled minister for three years. Its first was Dr. Ebenezer Tucker, ordained November 5, 1788. Two years later this precinct with territory from the southeasterly part of Athol was incorporated as a town and called Gerry after Governor Elbridge Gerry.

Soon the citizens found themselves in political disagreement

with Governor Gerry, and obtained an act to change the name to Phillipston in honor of Lieutenant Governor William Phillips. The moderator of the meeting requesting a council was Rev. Joseph Lee of Royalston who, in addition to serving his large parish, found time to assist other churches. Other clergymen at this council were Rev. Mr. Sparhawk, Rev. Joseph Dana of Barre, and Rev. Joseph Farrar who lived in Phillipston but had no parish. The Templeton and Athol churches contributed to the new organization. The first named deacon was Charles Baker who had been prominent in town affairs and had been a deacon in the First Parish.

The church itself is of interest, being one of the oldest in the county and unique in the fact that it retains its original church building from the point of age. The church at Athol is worshipping in its fifth building; Royalston in its third; Barre in the third; Petersham its fourth; Templeton its second. At one time the Phillipston church was turned partly around, twelve feet being added for a vestibule. The bell was a gift of Loammi Baldwin, a native of the town, and was cast in 1846. A new organ was purchased in 1903, being the gift of over one hundred members and friends. Their names are engraved near the key-board.

Like Memorial Church in Baldwinville, that of Phillipston has been active in the foreign missionary field. Its ninth pastor, Rev. Stephen Harris, had a daughter who was a missionary in China. Rev. P. A. Powers and his wife, Harriet Goulding, both natives of the town, went to Turkey and after Mrs. Powers' death, in this country, Mr. Powers returned, remaining many years. Sarah Cheney, a church member, married Rev. Mr. Aiken and together they worked in Syria, while Miss Lucy J. Baker a descendant of Cyrus Baker, an original church member, did fine work in South Africa. The Sunday School was begun in 1823 or 4, and the Ladies' Ben-

evolent Society, organized in May 1843, was originally called "Female Circle of Industry."

In 1891, a unique piece of work was accomplished in the church by A. D. Clifford, a farmer of the town. He built into the steeple a huge clock which has no faces or hands on the outside. It appeals only to the ear, striking the hours by means of a bell placed in the belfry in 1846. In three months, Mr. Clifford built and set the clock in place. The timepiece needed 1500 or more pieces of wood in its construction and was built in Parker's Chair Shop in Goulding Village, being put into the church one piece at a time. The wheels are all of wood except the escapement wheel which is several inches in diameter and is made of brass. The striking weight is a stone weighing a thousand pounds and the running weight is another stone weighing five hundred pounds. The pendulum, a boulder, leashed to a long wooden shaft weighs 417 pounds and is 14 feet long. There are 29 wheels, all of wood, the pendulum swings once in two seconds. Mr. Clifford was entirely original in its construction, depending on his ingenuity. Another feat was its assembly by lantern light, for it is pitch dark in the steeple. It is to be regretted that at this writing, it is not kept wound.

Outstanding facts as to the early history of Phillipston and its church may be found in William G. Lord's address delivered at a gathering of the Narragansett Historical Society in the historic old church on August 7, 1926; also in an admirable history of Phillipston written by Daniel Webster Baker found in Volume 2 of the History of Worcester County, together with an historical address delivered by Rev. S. B. Andrews, November 18, 1885, at the Centennial Anniversary of the church.

The present minister of the church is Rev. Charles L. Peeples (1946).



In 1842, a Universalist Society was organized. The first meetings were held in the old Town House and later in the Town Hall. Services were held on alternate Sundays, and Rev. Gerard Bushnell was the only pastor. Records seem to indicate that this group occupied a building in the center of the village of Phillipston near the cemetery, parts of this building later being used for the Methodist Church at East Templeton. A group of Methodists held services in one of the school houses about 1830, with Enoch Bradley, preacher. A meeting-house was later built in 1849 on what is now Route 2, and usually the Phillipston and East Templeton churches have been served by the same pastor.

Second Day Adventists began their meetings first about 1843. They were held in private homes and other meeting places. A church was organized in 1853, with Rev. C. R. Griggs of Westboro. He was the pastor until 1857, and then meetings were held only occasionally. The last minister was a traveling one, preaching from church to church. The last services were held in Partridgeville with Rev. George Cole as preacher. In 1946, a group are again meeting in the Baptist Church at Baldwinville. When Mr. Cole was asked what was the hardest duty in the preaching profession he answered, "To practice what one preaches."

In the early 1840's, there was in the country a religious movement, whose followers were called Millerites and who expected that the world would come to an end within a few months. Clara Endicott Sears has written of this in her book, "Days of Delusion". Although she does not mention Templeton, as there were evidently no outstanding events here, it is known that there was a devoted group in this town who held meetings in their homes and who had their white robes ready for the day when they should be taken up into Glory.

## METHODIST CHURCH

At the Centennial celebration in 1943, the Methodist Church, situated in East Templeton asked Mrs. Lena B. Hale, wife of the late Rev. Francis J. Hale, formerly pastor of the church, to write an historical sketch, excerpts from which are included in this chapter.

“In 1840, the first seeds were being sown which resulted in a Methodist Church. A group of preaching places united in what was called Templeton Circuit, and included were Templeton, South Royalston, Petersham, Phillipston and Hubbardston. Various preachers held religious services, but records show that in 1841, Rev. Stephen Cushing was stationed in Hubbardston, and “preached occasionally in East Templeton on Sabbath or week-day evenings.” At the opening of winter 1843, the people of Templeton began to discuss the erection of a meeting-house if funds could be raised. The burden came on a few, but by the close of that year, they had a church and by selling the pews, together with subscriptions, in 1848, they were well on the way towards discharging the debt of \$1,896.30.

The building committee consisted of Abraham Stone, Joel Fales, Hartford Potter, Charles Jennison and Joshua Sawyer. The membership of the church at this time numbered only twenty-three, and discouragement was rife because of the debt and no prospect of keeping the church open for preaching.

The Presiding Elder at the Quarterly Conference that year proposed another subscription paper, and it was headed with \$250.00 from Hon. Lee Claflin of Hopkinton, Governor of Massachusetts at one time. History seems to point to the fact that this method was fairly successful. Previous to this, the members decided to set themselves apart from Templeton and South Royalston, and the latter two became a double



parish. Accordingly, Rev. Willard Smith was assigned to this appointment, preaching alternately at the two places. Before money was raised for the new church building, services were held in the schoolhouse at East Templeton, afterwards used as a blacksmith shop. This building was west of the present church building, later being moved onto the Gardner road between Pleasant Street and the square.

The official board of the church at this time numbered seven, among them, Joel and Mrs. Fales whom Mrs. Hale mentions as "towers of strength in every good project for East Templeton." They were the grandparents of George Howard who still lives in the East village (1946) and who has been a trustee of the church for many years. The late Mrs. Henrietta Turner was a granddaughter.

Records vary as to the original building — one stating that there existed a building for Methodist services in Templeton Center, opposite the home of Deacon J. O. Winch. For lack of funds, this society was disbanded, and its church building moved to Brookfield, Mass. Notes written by Miss Esther Oliver state that the frame, pews, etc., were brought from Phillipston, there having been a Universalist Church in that village. In 1864, the church was declared free from debt; in 1870, it was decided to build a parsonage. Rev. Daniel Bannister was the minister, living in the Baker house, now owned and occupied by Dr. and Mrs. Harold Eames (1946). Ansom Peckham gave a building lot, and \$900.00 was raised by Lemuel Ingalls and Mrs. Almira Sawyer; men gave of their time in work, and the house was dedicated that year, being situated on South Main, directly opposite Winter Street.

However, in 1873, finances again were at a low ebb and the church edifice in poor condition. Business was stagnant, but the tide again turned in 1874, and the building was remodeled at a cost of \$2000.00. Mrs. Alfred Peckham helped raise funds



for a bell. The latter was placed by Robert McGown, Sr., and John Hunting.

One of the most active societies of the church has been the Ladies' Aid. They have not only assisted in the social life of the community but by hard work have raised money for a kitchen and other improvements. The Sunday school has grown under the leadership of various devoted members, the present superintendent (1946) being Robert Clogston; Mrs. Alice T. Wheeler is superintendent of the Primary Department.

Rev. Francis J. Hale became the minister in 1916 and was a much beloved pastor for nine years, supplying the Phillips-ton Chapel as well. Always optimistic, his preaching and contacts with those of other faiths, left a wide influence in the town. Mr. Hale died January 14, 1940, in East Templeton where his wife, Mrs. Hale, still carries on his helpful work, in cooperation with the Ladies Aid. His daughter, Mrs. Kenneth Mann has been the organist for several years.

In 1933, Rev. Fred M. Estes came to carry on the work and, again, extensive repairs were made under his leadership. A legacy from Miss Chestina B. Robbins did much to further this work and is known as the Chestina B. Robbins Memorial. Dr. Estes gave the altar in memory of his wife; the lectern was given by Mr. and Mrs. Clogston in memory of Mrs. Clogston's sister, Lillian G. Mann. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur G. Mann presented the gold cross in memory of Mrs. Mann's mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. Pembroke Johnson; the reading lamp on the pulpit was given by Mr. and Mrs. Willis Armstrong in memory of their son, Harold; a lectern lamp by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pervier; two chancel chairs were the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Harry A. Manton.

In 1900, a permanent parsonage was purchased on High Street where the present pastor, Rev. Wallace Hayes, lives (1946). The church is living proof of what can be accom-

plished by a group of sincere and active people working for the cause of religion in a small community. Mrs. Hale, from whom most of these data were procured ended her fine history with these words:

“Lord, Thy church is praying yet,  
A hundred years the same;  
Unshaken as eternal hills,  
Immovable she stands.”

### MEMORIAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

During the pastorate of Dr. Dexter, 1871-1875, at the Baptist Church in Baldwinville, several active members withdrew, holding services in private homes and Union Hall. Prayer meetings were held in a room over the office of Thompson, Perley and Waite.

They met on April 6, 1874, and voted “to take such measures under consideration as would bring their desires to that end and voted to organize a Congregational Society.” A committee was chosen to act with the pastor to draw up articles of Faith and Rules for church government. On May 13, 1874, it was voted to call an Ecclesiastical Council to examine and recognize the church. This Council was called and convened the first day of June, 1874, in the basement of the abandoned hat shop on the site of the Waite Chair Company, the only available place large enough. Churches from surrounding towns were invited, and Rev. Mr. Perry of the Tabernacle Church of Worcester preached the sermon. There were fifty-one charter members June 4, 1874.

The Parish was organized and the members of the first Parish Committee were: Daniel Thompson, Charles A. Perley, Amos D. Wiley, Willard Baker, O. D. Sawin, with Albert Bryant, clerk.

The services were held in Union Hall, where later the Fire

Station was built. A small reed organ was donated by Mrs. Henry Smith. Church music was in charge of O. G. Davis, with Miss Lizzie Cady as organist and Abbie Thompson, assistant.

In May, 1875, a Sunday school was organized, with Charles A. Perley, superintendent. A "Ladies Society" was formed with Mrs. Sarah Thompson, its first president. This group of women were loyal and hard working in their efforts to keep the Society prospering. Strawberry festivals and suppers were often held with all the water brought from the neighboring hotel. To earn money for the church, they seated chairs, bound blankets for the mills and made quilts.

In 1877, Deacon Willard Baker built a chapel on the site of the house of the late Mrs. Mary Baker. Prayer meetings and work meetings were held there.

At a meeting of Church and Parish held March 14, 1881, it was decided to build a church edifice. A building committee were the following: Charles A. Perley, O. D. Sawin, G. D. Fletcher, Willard Baker, A. D. Wiley, C. A. Smith, and Albert Bryant.

It was voted to call it "Memorial Church" in memory of two devoted missionaries from Baldwinville, Miss Roseltha Norcross and Dr. William Goodell. Plans were soon agreed upon and drawn by Fuler & Delano of Worcester. M. M. Favor of Gardner was the builder, at a cost of \$9000. It was dedicated June 28, 1883.

Contributions were generous, and Reverend Robert H. Haskins secured donations from Sunday schools of surrounding towns to help pay for memorial windows. Reverend A. P. Marvin of Lancaster was the acting pastor and presided.

At the 50th anniversary of the church, held June 25, 1933, there were three living charter members: Miss Mattie Bell Raymond, Mrs. Alice A. Perley, Miss Mary H. Stowe, the



latter being the only resident charter member, and her membership remained on the roll until her death. Mrs. Perley and Miss Stowe were present at that anniversary.

In 1898, it was decided to install a pipe organ for which an addition was needed, together with a choir loft. The cost of the addition was \$3150. and the organ, \$1500. The church was re-dedicated December 21, 1898, the Reverend John W. Hird being pastor. During 1921, a new heater was installed, and the kitchen location changed.

This "Memorial Church" stands as a living tribute to the two missionaries above mentioned. Miss Roseltha A. Norcross was a sister of Mr. R. Z. Norcross who lived on Reservoir Street. She was educated in the common schools which included the "Portable Templeton High School" of that day. At fifteen she was teaching in Winchendon, but at the outbreak of the Civil War, entered Mt. Holyoke College and graduated in 1866. The next year, she sailed for Turkey under the American Board of Foreign Missions. She lived only four years after her arrival there and was buried where she labored, in Syria — a woman of extraordinary life and character.

Also on Norcross Hill where she was born, lived a family named Goodell. One of the sons, William, was born February 14, 1792. He, too, grew up in the common schools but prepared for Dartmouth College at Phillips Academy. He graduated with honors from Dartmouth and later from Andover Theological Seminary. The next year, he sailed for Turkey under the American Board, where he labored for forty years. It is interesting to note that a warm friend of Dr. Goodell was Capt. Asa Turner of Templeton who became a home missionary in America when his contemporary was in Turkey. He established churches in the frontier towns, his first a Presbyterian Church in Quincy, Ill. Later he became pastor of the First Congregational Church in Denmark, Iowa.

He became such a power in the religious life of the West that a book known as Magown's "Life and Times of Asa Turner" has been widely read. It can be found in the Boynton Public Library. A recent letter from the present minister of his church in Denmark, Iowa, asks if Templeton knows of his wonderful and distinguished influence throughout the West. Asa Turner was the son of Lieut. Edward and Hannah Turner and was born in Templeton, July 24, 1768. One of his descendants in this town is Mrs. Beulah Manning Wolcott.

In the memorial windows to Miss Norcross and Dr. Goodell may be seen the star and Turkish crescent. On the top of Dr. Goodell's half of the window is an open Bible on which are the words in Turkish letters "The Word."

Dr. Goodell gave to the common people of Turkey, the Bible, translating it into Turko-Armenian language. His was a noble life which commanded the admiration of the best men in America and England.

#### Ministers of Memorial Church

J. Payson Broad	1874-1877
C. M. Temple	1878
Robert W. Haskins	1879-1881
John T. Crumrine	1881-1883
A. P. Maroin	1883-
M. Angelo Dougherty	1883-1885
Roswell Foster	1885-1889
J. W. Hird	1889-1903
Richard Peters	1903-1908
Luther M. Keniston	1908-1911
Henry A. Coolidge	1911-1915
Amasa C. Fay	1915-1919
Edmund L. Smiley	1919-1929
R. Russell Denison	1929-1931
Joseph L. Prigmore	1932-1946

## CATHOLIC CHURCH

St. Martin's Catholic Church, situated in the village of Otter River, has a long and interesting history. Much has been written concerning it by Miss Mary Kelley of that parish to whom we are indebted for authentic information.

For more than two centuries, following the landing of the Pilgrims, the Catholic Church found no home in North Central Massachusetts. However, there were many Catholics in Boston and other coast towns who, even during the Revolution, had won renown in the land of their adoption. George Washington on St. Patrick's Day, in 1790, in an address to the Roman Catholics of the United States said, "We can never forget the patriotic part which you took in the accomplishment of our Revolution and the establishment of our government." Yet, the early Catholic settlers in the United States suffered much bigotry and persecution, unfortunately, in the little hill towns of Massachusetts of which Templeton was one.

The first Irish Catholics in the town settled in Otter River during 1837 but being small in number, Rev. Father Fitton, in charge of the Hartford, Connecticut Parish, made occasional visits here. It appears evident that few of these early families remained, for the first Catholic settler seems to have been Patrick O'Brien who came in 1847, and in 1851, Rev. Matthew Gibson, pastor of Worcester and Fitchburg, celebrated mass in Patrick O'Brien's house, which still stands, owned for years by Mrs. Bridget Goulding. Father Fitton was a man of brilliant attainments and one of the first to preach Christianity to the Passamaquoddy Indians. Christopher Columbus Baldwin writes as of April 4, 1834, in Worcester, "I had a visit today from the Rev. James Fitton, a Catholic priest from Hartford, Connecticut. He told me he was the first native of Boston to preach the Catholic faith in



New England, having been born in Boston, April 10, 1805. He is the editor of the Catholic Press in Hartford. His father was Abraham Fitton who came from County Lancaster, England, to Boston in 1790. On April 7, 1834, Father Fitton assembled the Catholics in Worcester and those from factories at Millbury, about sixty, besides women and children."

"I believe this to be the first Catholic sermon ever preached in Worcester. After service, a subscription was taken with a view to raising money for the erection of a chapel, and, in addition to this, another \$100. was procured to defray Father Fitton's expenses from Hartford; thus enabling him to visit the Catholics in different places of Massachusetts and Connecticut, of which Otter River was one."

Father Fitton became the first pastor of the dedicated Christ Church of Worcester in 1841, only remaining two years, when he returned to Boston. "The College of the Holy Cross in Worcester owes its origin to Rev. James Fitton. He had established in the city at the church, over which he had charge, a primary and grammar grade of school; but this did not satisfy him as he desired the establishment of a more advanced school for boys, partaking of a seminary for theological study. For this purpose, he purchased a farm of fifty or sixty acres on the north side of Boagachaoag or "Hill of Pleasant Springs," about one mile south of the town, between what was known as "Ward and Millbury Road", on the very spot where the famous John Eliot had gathered the Indians in his Wigwam Church to listen to his preaching." (Rev. Thomas J. Conaty, D. D.) The athletic field of Holy Cross College is named Fitton Field.

For several years it was uncertain where and when Mass would be sung and confessions heard in Otter River. They ranged from the little red school house to the home of William Sullivan, now occupied by his grandson, William O'Brien.

Many couples were married from this same house before the church was dedicated. During this period, many Irish Catholic men and their families settled in or adjacent to Otter River, but the majority were young, unmarried men. In 1853, this energetic and devout group resolved to have a permanent place of worship. A meeting was called and a committee appointed to collect money. The land on which the church stands was part of the Charles Church property. All the timber construction was cut off the Hosmer lot and was sawed out by an old fashioned "up-and-down" saw in the John and Edward Hosmer sawmill, now known as the Day Mill. Daniel Murphy drew the lumber with a yoke of oxen; about \$500.00 was collected and, together with willing hands, a severely plain building was erected with neither porch nor vestibule. The pews were purchased from the First Parish of Templeton Center for \$95.00, having been removed during one of its restorations. Being the old box and high-backed type, they were cut down and somewhat modernized. In those days, \$95. represented at least ninety-five days' work, and Martin Glasheen advanced the money. In 1854, the modest building was finished and dedicated by Rev. Matthew Gibson and called St. Martin's.

The church was raised to parochial dignity in January, 1864, and its first resident pastor was Rev. Thomas Bannon. The latter purchased the house just below the schoolhouse as his personal property. Mass was celebrated every second Sunday, alternate Sundays at the Missions of surrounding towns. Many times thirty or forty horses, with every style of vehicle, were attached to trees and fences and many of the faithful walked long distances. An organ was secured and a choir organized. Joseph Miller, followed by Etta Bunn, were the organists, both Protestants, who gave their services. The present organ is the fourth to be installed and Mrs. Helen Gammell is the organist. (1946)

During the pastorates of the many clergymen, various



changes, repairs and additions for betterment have been made, including the parochial residence opposite the church. The last extensive changes were made through the efforts of Father Dolan who assumed the pastorate in 1916. Later, Father Fitzgibbon renovated and artistically transformed the interior. The seating capacity has been enlarged by building out the altar from the rear, the gift of Rev. John Conway of Winchendon during the pastorate of Rev. Father Prendergast. Gradually other towns associated with the church were raised to parochial dignity. Through the united efforts of priests, members and friends of historic St. Martin's, its present edifice is a credit and memorial to all of them.

One of the town's early industries contributed its share to the services of St. Martin's. Every farmer kept bees and a candle factory provided work for several men, making pure beeswax candles, and even after sperm oil and kerosene lamps became popular, this small factory continued to make candles for churches, shipping some of them to New York City. The factory was near the present Henshaw farm, and the old kettle was still there when Mr. Henshaw took possession.

Once in the early days, when Lord & Stone were in business in Otter River, one of their faithful men of many years had a great affection for his employers, but he was most anxious as to their being saved since they were not Catholics. He went to his priest asking if anything could be done to secure their safety hereafter. The understanding priest said, "Do not worry, William, the good God will take care of them."

As we end this chapter on the churches of Templeton, let us pray that his answer comes true. It is for us, descendants of these Christian founders, inspired by their faith and zeal, to keep religion our first concern; may we, as individuals, help bring about the day when with Robert Browning, we can truly sing, "All's right with the world."





# Education in Templeton

by

CARRIE BISHOP PAINE

## EARLY SCHOOLS OF TEMPLETON

IN the original division of lands in the township, one lot was reserved for schools. This school lot, No. 36, was in the southeasterly part of the town and included Cook's Pond.

There were no schools supported by grants of public money until after the incorporation of the town. In 1763, for the first time, a small sum of money was granted by the town for schools. In 1769, lot No. 36 was sold for about \$187.00. This sum, together with money obtained from the sale of "pew ground" in the meeting house, was set apart as a school fund; but this money was later diverted to other uses.

In 1776, the school money was divided — each "squadron" or division of the township receiving an amount commensurate with the number of children between four and sixteen years of age. In 1779, this age requirement was changed to between four and twenty-one years of age.

In early times, the town did not build or own the schoolhouses. Sometimes the one-room structure was built by the voluntary contributions of the people in that "squadron"; sometimes the school was conducted in a private home. In 1787, a town committee was chosen to appraise the value of the schoolhouses then existing and to purchase the same from their owners. In 1801, it was voted to grant each district \$100.00 to build a schoolhouse, the town to own and keep it in repair. In 1789, the legislature enacted a law which per-



mitted the townships to divide their territorial units into school districts; and in 1805, the “squadrons” were so renamed in Templeton.

For many years after — 1814 to 1869 — the schoolhouses were owned and kept in repair by the districts, each district raising the money by taxation.

There were nine districts in Templeton:

District	I	Center
”	II	South School
”	III	Partridgeville
”	IV	Baptist Common
”	V	Church Hill
”	VI	Factory Village (Otter River)
”	VII	West Village — Bowkersville or
”		Brooksvillage
”	VIII	Baldwinville
”	IX	East Templeton

Previous to 1815, teachers were examined by the minister, Dr. Wellington, to ascertain as to their fitness; but after that date, a committee was chosen by the town to administer the schools. In 1826, towns were required to choose a committee of three members for this purpose. In 1857, the number of this committee was changed from three to a multiple of three.

For many years, the three ministers at the center of the town — Dr. Adams, Dr. Sabin and Dr. Bushnell — served as this committee.

We have been given some very vivid pictures of these early schools by those who knew them firsthand. District No. 2 school was thus described by Mrs. Almira Parkhurst in her 85th year (1901):

“The old schoolhouse was situated about halfway between Fales Village and Partridgeville. All the scholars from both villages went to this school, with its large open fireplace

where they used to burn four-foot wood. When the scholars entered the room, they were all required to make their obeisance — that is, the boys to make a bow, the girls to make a curtsy. At the close of school, at night, they were told by the teacher that if they met anyone on the street, going home, to show their manners in the same way. In the winter, when the snow was very deep, my father used to carry us to school, sometimes on the ox sled, and we used to enjoy it very much. We had only two terms of school, summer and winter school. Most every family tried to show the teachers some respect by inviting them to their homes, but that custom was dropped long ago. Our District No. 2 — and it included both villages, Fales Village and Partridgeville — had a goodly number of scholars; and many from the old schoolhouse made very smart businessmen. Several went West a great many years ago and made for themselves a high mark in the world as regards property and influence. After the division of the district, they had schoolhouses built in both districts. The schools were divided somewhere about 1834.”

Mrs. John Green gives her recollections of District No. 3: “My first recollection of its character came when I must have been about four years old. I was sent with two older cousins to the schoolhouse on Mine Hill, where I was placed on what was called ‘one of the low seats’. The square-shaped building had a narrow entry, so styled, with a door opposite the entrance door which divided the rows of nails, designated on the right as ‘the boys’ side’ and on the left, ‘the girls’ side’. Happily, it was a summer term, and I had only a sun-bonnet to take off, so it made small difference to me or to my cousins whether it was hung up or not. Miss Maria Cutting was the teacher. Perhaps I was small for my age, but I shall never forget my mortification at being called to her side and asked to read, ‘ab, ib, ob’.

“I had read many of the ‘Rollo’ books then distributed to children from a district library. I do not not know how this library was obtained, but I take pleasure in acknowledging my delight in all the books I read from it. Once in my childhood, I remember that my father was librarian, and from the number of shelves the books occupied, I should presume there were about 30 volumes. Being ‘only a girl’, I was never permitted to attend one of these school meetings; but I remember my father always went, and not infrequently carried with him pens, ink and papers, so I assume they were more or less formal. I remember hearing that somebody was selected to hire the teacher for the two terms, summer and winter. I loved all the teachers, male or female; but I hated the ‘big boys’, and my ‘noonings’ were intolerable. It was terrible to be a little girl when there were 16 or 18 boisterous boys about.

“In those days we carried our dinners in tin pails which were duly placed under the wooden seats (from which our young legs dangled in most unhygienic style) or were hung up with our sunbonnets and hats. The seats were ranged on either side of a central aisle which was about one-third the width of the building. The oldest scholars sat on the back seats that ran the whole length of the building next to the wall. The next oldest sat on the second tier, and the wee ones on the boards below, without support in front or at the sides. Sometimes, on warm summer afternoons, sleep overcame us; and we were laid out with the teacher’s shawl for a pillow and slumbered until we rolled off to the floor when we shamefacedly picked ourselves up or wept aloud, sometimes refusing to be comforted.

“There were evenings of excitement when spelling matches were in vogue, and proud indeed was the youngster who spelled down his own father or the older scholars. To the



schoolhouse we gleefully sped after supper, for the spelling bee, bringing with us candles and lanterns; trudging over the snow with the mercury well on to zero, never dreaming that it was anything but the greatest fun. What fun it was to break roads after a big snow that came in the night! We all rejoiced when we could go to school on the sled. To be sure, we sometimes had to thaw out one another's fingers, noses or ears, but it never fazed the victim. There was always snow enough to rub on the frozen member; and there were never any wild murmurings or martyrs' sighing. Then the visits of the school committee! How profound was our terror of the reverend gentleman who came with patriarchal dignity and supreme authority. Light indeed was the heart when the fatal questions in arithmetic had been correctly answered, the geography questions calmly disposed of, and the reading commendably ended."

The following description is taken from Elizabeth Wellington Lord's "The Story of a New England Town":

"The little buildings were usually painted red. Seats were arranged on the sides of the room, built on a platform, with the desks against the wall and a form outside of them. The older scholars sat there with their faces turned toward the wall. Around these seats was another form on which the younger children sat. The teacher's desk was elevated and was reached by three or four steps. The room was warmed by a fireplace. There was no regular boy to attend the fire. Just before the close of school, at the end of the day, the teacher would ask some boy to volunteer to 'put on the fire' for the next day; and if no boy volunteered, the teacher appointed someone. The boys cut the wood, and the girls took turns in doing the sweeping and dusting. When the scholars entered and went out, they made obeisance to the teacher, and they always rose when the minister or school committee en-

tered. There were no blackboards, and slates, with their attached sponges, came at a later date. The pupils used unruled paper. The teacher's salary was small so, to eke it out, she was 'boarded around', as it was called, spending two weeks with one family, then two weeks with another. Reading, writing and arithmetic formed the basis of instruction.

"One form of punishment was for the pupil to stand on the floor holding his finger on the head of a nail; another, to hold a book out at arm's length; still another, to have a wedge between his teeth, thus tiring the muscles by keeping them in an unnatural position".

Miss Lizzie Hadley read the following on July 25, 1943, at a Historical Society luncheon, giving a later picture:

"Schoolhouses were much alike, usually on some less fertile spot in the center of population. Number seven, between the Barre road and the old town road, was a square building, facing east. One entered through a shed which held chunks of wood for the big sheet-iron stove in the schoolroom. An entry led from this, with hooks on each side of the schoolroom door for hats and coats. A shelf was at the opposite end of the entry with a water pail and dipper. Germs were not heard of at that time! Privileged ones were allowed to go to the village pump for water.

"Around the stove were seats built to the walls, with a box filled with wood underneath. Upon these seats pupils sat to get warm, if the long stove funnel running clear across the room did not heat enough. Often it didn't!

"Upon entering the room, a motto, 'Welcome', greeted you from the chimney protruding into the room. 'God Bless our School' was over the entrance door. Plants were in the south windows, and pictures hung on the walls. Seats were built close to the wall at the back and either side of the chimney, Desks ranged in aisles toward the front, growing smaller and

smaller to the seats in the front without desks. Under the open desks were kept the dinner pails of those coming from a distance. Under an open seat of one in the front was kept a small-sized globe, an object of interest and much study at times.

“The pupils sought the privilege of sitting together on the wall seats to study geography, explain an example to a backward pupil or to write a language lesson — which may have been a social note. Woe to those who were caught whispering too much!

“Good little girls and boys were given ‘rewards of merit’, ten of which earned a card. It was a pleasure to stand by the teacher’s desk and choose from a lot laid out there.

“A number of pupils had to take their dinners in tin pails. It was a great occasion when some of the rest were allowed to do likewise on account of storm or absence of parents. They enjoyed ‘Roll the Plate’ or ‘Clap in and Clap Out’ at noonings.”

Contributed by Clifford Day:

“For countless years, the old village primary school, next door to the pillared church, started children on their school careers. The great stove alternately blistered and chilled. Outside, the schoolyard pump still served, ever ready to give duckings to those deserving them. Even teacher resorted to pouring a glass of icy water down a lad’s neck, as a sure cure for nosebleed.”

In 1869, the district system was abandoned in favor of the town system. At that time, the town again became the owner of all the school buildings, the appraised value of which was \$11,846.88.

As the population of the town increased, the little one-room district schools gave way to more commodious structures. In 1834, a wooden building was erected in East Templeton, on



a lot adjoining the present site of the Methodist Church. This was a one-room building but larger than the old district schoolhouses. It is still standing and is used by the Boy Scouts.

In 1844, the town hall and a schoolhouse, a brick structure, was built in the center of the town by combined action of town and district. On the ground floor were two schoolrooms — one for the primary school and one for the grammar school, so called. The second floor was used for a town hall and armory. Later, for several years, the high school was domiciled in this room. The building was abandoned as a school building in 1942, and is now used by the Scout organizations.

In 1850, a two-story wooden building was erected in Baldwinville by the district. It has not been used as a school building for several years but is in a good state of preservation and houses the Baldwinville branch of the public library. The upper story is used for lodge rooms.

The older children were crowded into a new wooden structure which had been built across the river and was used also for the high school.

A schoolhouse was built in Otter River in 1860. There were two schoolrooms in the building and a public hall on the second floor, secured by contributions of the people of the village. The teacher of the primary school in 1862, we are told, had eighty-one pupils; and her salary was twenty-two dollars a month! This building was in use until 1933, when it was destroyed by fire.

East Templeton became a thriving village because of its industries; and the increase in population made a second school building necessary. In 1874, a two-story, two-room building was erected. This was for many years the pride of the village, for it had an imposing spire! It was abandoned in 1922, when the fine modern brick structure was built. The

old building has been converted into an apartment house.

In 1898, the school facilities in Baldwinville proved entirely inadequate, and the school housing problem was solved when the "extravagant" new brick building, with its new-fangled plumbing and wondrous ventilating system (according to the old-timers) came into being. It contained four rooms and since its erection, has housed the first four elementary grades.

The old wooden building on the south side of the river, which was used for the grammar grades and high school for many years, was burned December 18, 1921. The hall at the Otter River school building was used temporarily to house the high school. By using the platoon system, reopening the old Elm Street building and doubling up some of the grades, all classes were opened on time, January 6th, after the Christmas holidays.

The present building was completed and opened to the public November 24, 1923, at a cost of \$97,000. In the last twenty-five years, the town has provided three new modern buildings: the wooden structure at Otter River, replacing the one destroyed by fire in 1933; the modern brick building at East Templeton, erected in 1922; and the four-room modern building at the center, completed in 1942.

During these years, there have been many good and faithful teachers who have given to the town long periods of service in our elementary schools. Miss Margaret Leland taught at the center for many years and was greatly beloved by all who knew her. Her name recalls the following amusing incident: It was recess, and the children were playing games in the yard. Miss Leland was looking over some papers at her desk, when a boy rushed in and said, "Miss Leland, come quick, Edwin has got stuck". She ran out and saw the body of a small boy, with legs wildly kicking but with no head visible. Some of the cement had worked out from part of the under-

pinning of the building, leaving a three-cornered hole between the rocks. Edwin's curiosity got the better of him, and he decided he would find out what lay beyond the stones. He pushed his head through the opening; and when he found that he could see nothing but blackness, he became frightened; and with all his wriggling and twisting, he could not pull his head out. He screamed, but to no avail. When Miss Leland appeared and placed her hand on his back, she said, "Edwin, be quiet. Let us think a minute. You put your head through the hole, so you can pull it out. Raise your head a little — no matter if the stone scrapes the top of it a bit. Your hair is thick, so it will not hurt you." The rescuer held him by the shoulders, directing his movements, and after some coaxing the head came through, the lad a sadder but wiser boy. It may be of interest to relate that Edwin Hawkes later became the dean of Columbia College.

In addition to Miss Leland, there was Miss Maria Cutting who taught at Partridgeville and later at Otter River. Mrs. Rose Glasheen Coleman was for forty years identified with schools of Templeton. She began her career at District No. 2, in the south part of the town. She was later transferred to Baptist Common, then to Otter River and finally to Baldwinville, where she taught the grammar grades for thirty-two years. After these many years of service as teacher, she was elected to the school board and served in this capacity for twelve years. There are many who would bear witness to her untiring interest, and count it a rare privilege to have been under her enthusiastic instruction through those formative years. Mrs. Coleman is still living (1946).

Two teachers with twenty-five years or more to their credit are still on the school roster: Miss Mary Ahearn, principal of the elementary school at Baldwinville and Mrs. Clara Hobbs, principal of the school at East Templeton.



From time to time, private schools have been conducted for short periods in the town. Mrs. Lucy Richardson's Private School for Girls was well known outside of the town as well as locally. Mrs. Richardson taught for several years in the public schools and then opened a school for girls in her home — the house now occupied by Mrs. Rollin Johnson. She had both boarding and day pupils, and for many years, her school was a great asset to the town. Mrs. Richardson was a born teacher; she was also a woman of integrity, refinement, great kindness and understanding. Her influence was far reaching. It was her son, Moses Richardson, who later gave the Templeton Inn to the town.

In 1830, some of the citizens of Templeton, feeling that provision should be made for the higher education of its young people, formed an association and established a private high school. This school was largely attended and much interest was manifested. It was located in the brick house now owned by Miss Elsa Stone. The first principal was Jacob Bachelder, a graduate of Dartmouth College and a true educator. He served the school until 1835. He was succeeded by Martin Snow Newton and Daniel B. Parkhurst, each serving as principal for one term. Sylvester Judd was the last principal.

The school was discontinued in 1837; and for the next twenty years, there was no high school in the town. Occasionally, some teacher would open a private high school in his home or in the town hall for one or two terms.

In the same brick house, Charles Wellington Stone, a native of Templeton, founder of the famous Stone School for Boys, in Boston, conducted a summer school. His great thought was always his boys, and he worked hard for their success.

Once he prepared a pupil for his Harvard examinations and

taught him the Greek grammar through the "Anabasis" in a week, and the boy stood the test.

He loved Templeton and hoped some time to write its history, but his many duties prevented this accomplishment. Mr. Stone added much to the cultural life of the community, through his lectures and addresses and written articles.

The first public high school in the town was opened in 1856. The first term was held in the autumn of that year in the grammar school at the Center, with fifty-one pupils enrolled. Hosea F. Lane was principal. L. W. Russell was principal during the second term, the session being held in Baldwinville. Mr. Lane returned for the third term, and for forty years remained as principal, missing but one day of school during that period.

Until 1866, there were two terms of school each year; but in 1873, with increasing attendance, the school year was extended to four terms, kept alternately in each village: the spring term in Baldwinville, the summer term in Otter River, the fall term at the Center, and the winter term at East Templeton. Pupils from all parts of the town walked or drove to that section where the session was held. It is said that in the cold weather, when Mr. Lane, who lived at the Center, was obliged to drive to Baldwinville or East Templeton, he wore a dress coat, a light-weight overcoat, a heavy overcoat and sometimes a buffalo coat and tippet. He carried his books in a carpetbag and took with him an extra hat in case one blew away, as strong winds swept across the hills and snowy fields.

The girls he faced in the schoolroom were dressed warmly in winter in long plaid dresses, protected by aprons. In summer, they wore long gingham dresses and straw hats banded with long ribbon streamers. Some of the boys went barefoot, walking in four or five miles or more from outlying farms.

Education meant more than just having a good time. Along with school and farm work, many of these boys still found time to work in the chair shops to earn money for further education. Some of them later became nationally known and have been a great credit to their school and town.

When the enrollment warranted, an assistant was employed. Several young women, from time to time, served in this capacity for short periods. But the name of Miss Mary Wellington Stone, who was Mr. Lane's assistant much of the time during the last twenty years of his incumbency, will remain in the memory of those who had the rare privilege of coming under her instruction. Her painstaking thoroughness, her lucid explanations, her fine personality — these will never be forgotten.

In the fall of 1886, a high school was established at Baldwinville for the greater convenience of the students in that village and Otter River. E. B. Vining was the first principal of this school, known as Baldwinville High School. Mr. Lane remained as principal of the Templeton High School, located at the Center and serving that village and East Templeton. During his last ten years, with a smaller enrollment, Mr. Lane had no assistant most of the time; often his two classes were conducted simultaneously — one being assigned written work during the recitation period of the other. Such a program required skillful planning.

The first class of graduates, receiving diplomas, was in the spring of 1885, just previous to the establishment of the Baldwinville High School. Classes were graduated regularly each year after that, in both high schools. Previous to this time (1885) no classes had been graduated, pupils continuing as long as they desired.

In 1896, after forty years as principal, Mr. Lane retired from active service. He lived until May 23, 1902. In 1901, the two



high schools were consolidated, Baldwinville being chosen as the location.

Hosea F. Lane was a native of Ashburnham. As a young man, he attended Cushing Academy, but the way was not opened for college training. His strong aptitude for learning led him to choose teaching as a profession. Mr. Lane loved his profession. The remarkable success which attended his efforts is evidenced by many of his former pupils who have become eminent teachers and educators and who pay high tribute to his instruction. Possessing a real thirst for knowledge himself and having found it necessary to rely largely on his own efforts and study to satisfy that desire, he inspired those with whom he came in contact with the feeling that an education is available to any one who has the purpose and determination to acquire it. In the presentation of a subject he was unique and forceful; his illustrations were homely and effective. He stimulated individual thinking and expression. Hosea Lane was indeed one of the great teachers. For forty years, he also served as justice of the peace and was librarian of the Boynton Public Library from the date of its establishment in 1873, until his death. He refused to serve as a town official, but his counsel and advice were often sought and freely given.

After Mr. Lane's retirement, Miss Grace E. Blodgett became principal of the Templeton High School, which position she held most acceptably until the two high schools were consolidated in 1901.

There were several principals of the Baldwinville High School, serving for longer or shorter periods. Probably Mr. Nathaniel Cutler acted in this capacity for the longest period of time. Later, he was principal of the Athol High School for several years, until ill health forced his retirement. Mark E. Stinson is the present principal (1946). Mr. Stinson came from

Wiscasset, Maine in 1922 and is a graduate of Bates College. Through the years — nearly a quarter of a century — he has won the esteem and affection of his pupils. He has an able corps of assistants. The enrollment today is approximately 250.

Templeton has been fortunate in its school committee. Several of our fine citizens, both men and women, have given years of service in this capacity. We would mention, among those with the greater number of years to their credit, Francis Leland, Asa Hosmer, Percival Blodgett, Dr. S. E. Greenwood, Dr. W. F. Robie, Mrs. Rose E. Coleman, Miss Grace E. Blodgett.

In the late 1880's through funds allocated for that purpose, the State Department of Education made it possible for groups of towns to form a union for the election of a school superintendent who would give his entire time to the supervision of the schools in that group. Templeton early took advantage of this opportunity, and together with Phillipston, Royalston and Hubbardston, formed such a union in 1889, the second in the state.

The first superintendent in this district was Randall J. Condon, a young man of fine personality and ability. He introduced a unified course of study and laid a foundation for more effective school work. Mr. Condon, in later years, became widely known as the superintendent of schools in Cincinnati; and it was said that he was the highest salaried superintendent in the United States.

W. Scott Ward was one of the earlier superintendents — a man who will always be remembered for his inspiring personality and high ideals. Some of his methods became widely used throughout the state. Mr. Ward later served as superintendent in Athol for over thirty years, until ill health forced his retirement.

The town has been very fortunate in having several able men to serve in this capacity for longer or shorter periods of time. Asa Jones was here for fifteen years — from 1909 to 1924. Leon Prior has just completed a term of seventeen years, retiring from active duty in the summer of 1946. Through depression and war, Mr. Prior has valiantly carried on, continuing the high standards to which he was committed.

In 1881, the Templeton High School celebrated its 25th anniversary. Invitations were sent to all former pupils (Mr. Lane had kept a very accurate list), and July 14 was the day set apart for the reunion. An abundant dinner was served in Chapel Hall by the townswomen. Then, at the call of the bell — which Mr. Lane had always used — the guests assembled in the Town Hall for a program of reminiscences and the historical address of Mr. Lane. It was an occasion long to be remembered. At that time, a School Alumni Association was formed, with the following officers: President, Francis Leland; Vice-President, Asa Hosmer; Secretary-Treasurer, Mary W. Stone.

No reunions were held after that until 1894, when the alumni came together for their 38th anniversary. In 1906 — after the consolidation of the schools — an alumni association was organized, with Henry Wheeler as president. For many years, an annual picnic was held by the alumni at Lake Dennison. During World War I, these were cancelled. In 1926, the alumni association was revived under the stimulus of the present principal, Mr. Stinson. The association has met annually, except during the recent war years. In the summer of 1946, the annual meeting was resumed.

When we think of the small beginnings — the short terms, the meager appropriations — it is interesting to note that in 1946, there were in the school system of Templeton:



Pupils in elementary schools .....	562
Pupils in high school .....	204
Teachers in elementary schools .....	21
Teachers in high school .....	8
The appropriation for schools was \$73,382.10.	

## THE TEMPLETON CENTER SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

Since March 19, 1945, hot lunches have been served at the Center School under the National School Lunch Program. This program was instituted nationally in 1943, when it was found that the health of many school children was endangered by a lack of properly balanced home meals. Many parents were engaged in war work through the day, often leaving the children to choose an inadequate diet, either at home or in a restaurant.

The principal functions of this program are to provide any child in any United States community where the program is in operation, with a well-balanced meal which provides at least one-third of the day's nutritional requirements, and to clear from the market available surplus foods. The latter function acts as a support to prices for the encouragement of farmers who are the backbone of the nation.

A group of parents whose children attended the Center School organized as the Templeton Center School Lunch Committee. This group entered into a contract with the Community School Lunch Programs, 600 Washington Street, Boston, to supply a meal on every school day; this meal to furnish each child desiring it one-fourth quart whole, Pasteurized cow's milk, one or more slices of bread and butter, two ounces of meat or other protein and three-fourths of a cup of fruit or vegetable dish or combination of these. The contract also specified features of cleanliness and other points

too numerous and complex to describe here. Under the contract, each child pays a sum for the meal, and a portion is also contributed by the Federal Government, the funds being handled, in Massachusetts, through the departments of Education and Public Welfare. Before commencing the program, the local committee surveyed the center district and found that of a school population of some 150 pupils, about one-half were carrying cold lunches and would welcome a hot noon meal. The Templeton School Committee graciously gave permission for the use of a room in the basement; and local groups and individuals contributed goods, cash and labor to provide the necessary minimum equipment.

The program has operated successfully. Currently (1946), meals are being served to 100 children daily, exclusive of teachers and workers. It is anticipated that in two full years of operation, presently accomplished, some 35,000 meals will have been served. Two paid workers have prepared the meals, and women volunteers have generously assisted on many days.

The lunchroom equipment is available, under reasonable conditions, for use by outside groups who may meet at the school evenings.

During the past year, a gas stove was installed; and the purchase of an electric refrigerator is under consideration when the equipment and funds are available. The group which organized the local program is still actively functioning; and its continued daily performance sets a mark for voluntary non-profit organization. The committee consists of Charles R. Henshaw, Chairman; Mrs. Lillian Evenson, Secretary; Christopher H. Evenson, Treasurer; Mrs. Mildred Henshaw, Mrs. Joan Miettinen, Mrs. Louise Petrie and Joseph Leseneschal, new principal of the school. The Templeton School Committee, Emil Wirkkala, Carl Welch and Mrs. Bertha Conners, and the new Superintendent of Schools, Roger

K. Poole, act in an advisory capacity. Mrs. Lydia Wilgren is the cook, assisted by Mrs. Hilda Pankala.

It has been the constant aim of the committee to make a contribution to the health and happiness of the Templeton Center school children; and the results attained are indeed gratifying.



# Templeton in the Wars

by

IRA B. KNIGHT

## TEMPLETON IN THE WARS

THE township now known as Templeton was founded as the direct result of a war. In 1728, the General Court of Massachusetts awarded two townships, each six miles square, to certain soldiers who had taken part in the Narragansett Indian War, as part payment for their military service. It was not, however, until 1743 that the first building was erected in the township — a sawmill, located in what is known as East Templeton. With this as a beginning, the township was rapidly settled.

Since the power of the Indians had been broken years before, the colonists here were spared the fate of some of their neighbor towns in the Connecticut Valley to the west. There is no record of the early settlers being aroused by the war cries of raiding Indians; nor is there any report of settlers being slain by the savages. It is true that the original sawmill was burned by them; but this was probably the work of a stray band, bent on destruction and can hardly be classified as a war-like act on the part of the redskins.

The real history of Templeton at war begins with the Revolution. The news carried by Paul Revere on the evening of April 18, 1775, reached Templeton around noon on April 19; and before nightfall, 36 soldiers had taken up the march to Boston. From that time until the end of the war, several companies of men from Templeton served in the various cam-

paigns. Unfortunately, the names of these men have been lost. We do know, however, that 61 men set out to join the army at Bennington, Vermont; but they arrived after the battle was over and returned to their homes.

It must be remembered that the American soldiers who took part in the Revolution were all volunteers; and since there were no winter campaigns, they generally returned to their homes when winter set in. For this reason, it is difficult to enumerate the total number of soldiers from Templeton actually taking part in the war. But since the population of the township was only 1016 in 1776, it must be assumed that the percentage of men of military age who actually bore arms was very large.

Meanwhile, the people who remained at home were not idle. Throughout the war, they sent stores to the Continental troops. The women and children took the places of the men in the fields; and the life of the town went on despite the absence of so many able-bodied men. It is also of great interest to note that the town was one of the first in America to recognize its responsibility for the families of its soldiers. In a town meeting, held in 1777, it was voted to raise and distribute certain sums of money among the families of the men in the army.

When peace was declared, the soldiers returned to their homes and took up the work they had left in order to help the country gain its independence. According to law, each township was required to support a company of militia; and these companies remained in existence until the outbreak of the Civil War. Annual musters were held on Templeton Common, at which time arms and equipment were inspected, drills held and sham battles fought. These affairs were great social events in the township. The significance of these companies of militia was not lost sight of, however; and a plen-



tiful supply of arms, together with ammunition for the same, was kept on hand at all times.

The second war with England seems to have had little effect on the town. The militia was not called into action; and while it is certain that a few men from Templeton took up arms, their names have not survived. It is recorded that several men served in the garrisons of the forts in and around Boston. Templeton's seeming lack of participation in the War of 1812 may be ascribed to two reasons: first, it was chiefly a naval war, and the boys of the town being so far from the ocean, did not feel the call to serve in the navy; second, and more important, was the fact that the war was not popular in New England which by this time had become a manufacturing center, and the market was cut off by the Embargo on Shipping. Town records reveal that Templeton raised its proportionate amount of taxes to prosecute the war; and its citizens contracted to send stores and ammunition to the garrisons of the fort scattered along the New England coast.

An examination of the records reveals no mention of any citizens having taken active part in the campaigns of the war with Mexico; and it is therefore not until the outbreak of the Civil War that the town again assumed a military aspect. During the period from 1840 to 1860, one and at times two military companies had been maintained in the township, in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth. Immediately after the firing upon Fort Sumter, Templeton's Company A, 21st Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers was summoned to duty and departed for camp in Worcester. In August of 1861, the regiment left for the front, being first stationed at Annapolis where it became a part of the Army of the Potomac. The company participated in the Virginia campaigns until 1864, when the regiment had become so

reduced in numbers that it was combined with the 36th Regiment and thus lost its identity. In all, 56 men from Templeton were members of the regiment during the war.

In October, 1861, Company I of the 25th Regiment, containing 34 men from Templeton, departed for the front and took part in the same campaigns until October, 1863, when the regiment, having lost so many men at Cold Harbor and Petersburg, was disbanded. Many of the survivors re-enlisted and remained in service until the end of the war.

The next contingent, 31 men, in Company D, 36th Regiment, began their period of service in the autumn of 1862. They, too, were part of the Army of the Potomac and remained in service until the surrender.

Company G of the 53rd Regiment numbered 43 men from Templeton, who enlisted for a period of nine months, being discharged in September, 1863. Unlike the other companies, their field of duty was in the campaign to open the Mississippi, and their ranks were decimated more by illness than by battle duty.

These four companies were the only large groups to see service, but many individuals enlisted and were assigned to other units. Templeton sent a total of more than 200 men into the Union armies and suffered the loss of between 25 and 30, either killed or mortally wounded in battle. Of the total number, less than 40 returned unscathed; and the death toll from privation and disease was much greater than that of battle.

Throughout the war, the people at home ably supported their comrades in arms. The women of the town picked lint and rolled bandages in large quantities which were forwarded to the sanitary commission of the army—the forerunner of present-day organizations such as the Medical Corps, Nursing Corps, Red Cross, Salvation Army and similar groups. The

farmers increased their efforts to raise crops; and the mills of the town produced large quantities of military stores for the Quartermaster department. As each soldier was inducted into service, he was furnished with a uniform provided by the town. Also, his army pay was augmented with funds raised in various town meetings.

During the time the men were at the front, the women of the town sent socks and other knitted articles, together with mending kits and such small things as they could provide for the comfort of their absent loved ones. When news of battle casualties came in, many of the townspeople traveled to the army hospitals to care for and, in some cases, to bring back their wounded men. Throughout the period of the war, every effort was made by the people at home to support the soldiers at the front. As usual, Templeton was in the forefront in the performance of its duty to the flag.

## THE SPANISH WAR

The story of Templeton in the Spanish War is closely linked to the history of the Heywood Guards of Gardner, officially known as Company F, 2nd Massachusetts Militia. In this company, was a group of men from Templeton who were about the only ones from the township to engage in combat duty during the war. After the sinking of the Battleship Maine in Havana Harbor, the second regiment was called to active duty; and on May 3, 1898, Company F entrained for the regimental campground in Framingham. There, on May 10th, they received their physical examinations and were inducted into the federal army. Two days later, the regiment proceeded to Newport, Rhode Island, thence to New York by boat. From New York, they proceeded by train to Lakeland, Florida, where they received orders to join the fifth army corps under General Shafter at Tampa. Several days later, the



regiment embarked on an army transport, and on June 14, set sail for Cuba. The landing was effected at the seaport town of Daiquiri.

From this port the regiment marched, often in single file, to the town of Siboney which had undergone bombardment by our naval forces. This town lies on the direct route to Santiago which was the objective of the army. Here the regiment joined Theodore Roosevelt's Rough Riders and parts of the 1st and 10th Regular Cavalry which were to attack Santiago.

The first contact with the enemy occurred at the battle of El Coney. The block house at the top of El Coney was captured and the advance resumed toward Santiago. It was at the former place that the company suffered its first casualties of three men wounded.

The next obstacle encountered was at San Juan Hill where the Rough Riders gained their greatest fame. History has given them the greater part of the credit in this battle; and the fact that the boys of the 2nd Massachusetts fought side by side with them and often in advance of them, has been ignored. After the successful charge up and the capture of this famous hill, the advance was continued toward Santiago. During these operations on land, the fleet, under command of Admiral Sampson, had bottled up the Spanish fleet in the harbor of Santiago and had bombarded the city. After the battle of San Juan, the army proceeded to encircle the city, and the siege was begun.

Company F had not been on Cuban soil for one month, and although its losses were slight, the boys began to suffer from disease, caused by weather and the jungles through which they had advanced. This condition was prevalent throughout the whole army; and a further engagement could not be undertaken until reinforcements had been brought up. Accord-

ingly, trenches were dug, and the cordon was tightened around the city, while the troops were given opportunity to rest. The fleet, in the meantime, had destroyed the Spanish battle-ships which had been shut up in the harbor; and a formal demand had been made for the surrender of the city which took place on July 17, 1898. The army immediately advanced to occupy the city; and the boys of Company F were a part of the occupational forces. They remained on duty until August 12th, when they again embarked on a transport headed for New York. On arrival at that port, they proceeded to Worcester, and in October were mustered out of the service, after an army experience of about six months. Several of their sick were left behind in army hospitals, and the company returned to Templeton with battle casualties amounting to two dead and two wounded. However, the whole membership had been disabled at one time or another by privation and disease suffered in Cuba.

Several of the men from Templeton volunteered in different army regiments and in the navy, but none of them saw active service in Cuba. For this reason, the writer has chosen the history of the Heywood Guards as the story of Templeton in the Spanish War.

## FIRST WORLD WAR

In August, 1914, when war broke out between the Allies and the Central Powers of Europe, Templeton, like the rest of the United States, had the feeling that it could not directly affect this country. Our sympathies were naturally with the English and French, and strongest of all, with the over-run country of Belgium. As the months passed, and the war increased in fury, it became evident that we would be drawn in on the side of the democratic countries. We had been supply-





SOLDIERS' MONUMENT MEMORIAL  
WORLD WAR I.





ing the Allies with huge quantities of war materials, and when the unrestricted submarine warfare of the German Navy reached its climax, we were forced to become active, instead of unofficial, participants in the conflict.

When news of the declaration of war reached Templeton, for the first time in its history the town had no organized military unit to send to the front. Many of our young men, however, rushed to the enlistment offices, and by the time the draft law became effective, Templeton had already sent many young men to the army. Its record of enlistments in proportion to its population, was impressive, and of the one hundred and fourteen men who were taken in to the armed forces, all but a very few volunteered their services. It is interesting to note that the honor roll of the town displays the name of one young woman, an army nurse, and she was the pioneer of the scores of girls who served their country in the second great war.

The other side of the picture shows a more sorrowful scene, but one which should be held in the utmost reverence by the town, for of the one hundred and fourteen who went, twelve did not return; and Templeton had the sad distinction of owning one of the greatest proportionate casualty lists in the state.

When the armies were sent to Europe, Templeton was well represented in the famous First Division, "the first to go over and the last to come back." The peculiar style of trench warfare during this conflict, in which gains were measured by yards, instead of by miles, and during which for weeks at a time, the boys in the trenches seldom caught sight of the enemy, even tho' they were but a short distance away, made the period of service particularly arduous. The constant alertness against poison gas, and the conflict, which was heaviest during hours of darkness, exacted a heavy toll, and

the veterans of this war are today suffering from the results of their stay in the trenches.

They went over with the slogan of "making the world safe for democracy," and to "win the war to end all wars." They returned with the knowledge that they had accomplished their purpose; only to realize a few years later that their efforts had been in vain, and that they must watch their sons depart to do it all over again.

At home, the town supported the nation in every way possible, to carry on the war effort. Every war bond quota was over-subscribed, while the Red Cross and Salvation Army, the two great relief agencies, received large donations whenever they called for funds. Knitting of woolen garments, was one of the chief activities of the women, and thousands of these articles were sent to the army and navy. Rolling bandages and folding dressings was another of the home activities, and bundles of food, clothing and other comforts, were sent both to the boys and to the devastated regions.

In brief, Templeton, both at home and at the front, carried on its proud record of doing its part.

## SECOND WORLD WAR

During the years when the countries of Europe were engaged in the greatest and bitterest war that this world has ever known, and up to the time of the treacherous Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and Manila, the United States had been concerned in a supreme effort to support and supply our natural allies, England and France. During the latter part of this period, the National Guard of the country had been inducted into the U. S. Army, and had departed for training. At the same time, the Selective Service Act had been passed by Congress, and as swiftly as training quarters could be provided,



the young men of the country were being summoned for a year of military duty.

With the declaration of war on December 8, 1941, the whole country sprang to arms, and Templeton ceased being a quiet country town. Several young men had already departed for their year of training, but now that war was actually at hand, many of our boys rushed to the recruiting offices to enlist. As long as enlistments were accepted, this movement continued. Soon, however, the draft offices were put into operation, and from that time until the end of the war, there was a steady draining off of the young men of the town. It soon became a matter of interest to see a young man of military age walking down the street in civilian clothes. A small number of young men who held key positions in vital industries, were frozen on their jobs, and not accepted for service. Another small group was rejected on account of disability, but these few men emphasized the absence of the greater part of the youth of the town. A striking example of this exodus is shown by the graduation programs of the classes of 1945 and 1946 of the high school. Of the total of twenty-five boys graduating, sixteen were either already in the service, or were inducted immediately after graduation; and of the nine remaining, several were called when they reached the age of eighteen.

Unlike the procedure during previous wars, voluntary military units were not accepted, and as the service men reported for duty, they were assigned to units made up of boys from all over the country. It was a rare instance when two boys from Templeton were assigned to the same company. A screening process, by which their aptitudes were tested, placed them in various branches of the service, and boys from Templeton were thus assigned to the army, navy, various air forces, marines, coast guard and sea-bees, and almost before we could

realize it, letters were coming back home from all over the world. Many of the boys were given special training in schools, colleges, officers' candidate schools and air force training schools: thus qualifying for commission in the various services. For the first time, young women were given serious consideration by the Joint Staff of the armed forces, and Templeton sent its quota of girls to the WACS, WAVES, SPARS, MARINES, Nursing Corps, and Cadet Nursing Corps. The honor roll of the town on VJ Day listed well over six hundred names, and of these, seventeen gave their lives.

**Note:** They had literally been scattered over the seven seas and the known earth, in the Arctic, Europe, Africa, Near East, Far East, Pacific and Japan.

As the boys returned from the various fronts, the campaign ribbons, commendation badges and purple hearts which were pinned on their uniforms, gave silent but convincing testimony of their devotion to duty, and valor against the enemies of our country.

As the fury of the war increased, so did the determination of the people at home to back up the efforts of the boys at the front became stronger. Over-night, factories changed from civilian production, to war work, and increased their working hours to twenty-four hours a day in many cases. This added effort was made possible by the hundreds of women, who arranged their home duties so that they could work part of every day at the machines. Elderly men came out of retirement, and worked to the utmost of their ability at whatever jobs they were physically able to perform. School children worked a few hours each day after classes were dismissed; and men, women and children united in one mighty effort to produce the materials necessary for the prosecution of the war. Farmers doubled their acreage, and produced crops greater than ever before. The strict rationing of food was accepted, with very few complaints, and all in all, the war effort on the home front was the greatest demonstration of

massed determination that the world has ever seen. One branch of service which was not officially in the armed forces, but without which the armies themselves could not have survived, was the Merchant Marine. Templeton was well represented in this service, and at least THREE boys from the town gave up THEIR LIVES while on duty on merchant ships.

Besides working at top speed, in the various industries, the townspeople contributed most liberally of their money for the benefit of the soldiers and sailors, as well as the relief of the over-run countries. Every appeal for funds and supplies was met with enthusiasm, and every established quota was over-subscribed; all this in addition to the over-subscription of the War Bond issues. In brief, Templeton, both at home and at the front, did its part.

After the surrender of Germany, the boys began to come back home in ever increasing numbers, and when Japan succumbed, the homeward tide reached its peak. In a few months, the majority of the boys had been separated from the services, and began to take their places in the civil life of the town. A few of the more recently enlisted men were kept in the service for duty in the armies of occupation; and at the time this is written, many of our boys are still serving in Europe, Japan and the islands of the Pacific. Those who returned have quietly taken their places in factories, on farms, and in other peacetime occupations. Their travels over the world, their contacts with other peoples, and their observation of how the rest of the world lives, have qualified them to become better citizens; and we of the older generation can hand over to them the management of the town, secure in the knowledge that Templeton will be safe in their hands.



















